



Rightsstatements.org

1. What is rightsstatements.org?

Rightsstatements.org (rs.org) is a collaborative approach to creating internationally interoperable rights statements. The aim is two-fold:

1. make it easier for cultural heritage institutions and aggregators to communicate the copyright status of cultural objects online
2. for users to clearly understand what they can or cannot do with the objects they discover via our platforms.

These 11 different rights statements have been developed in partnership with the [Digital Public Library of America \(DPLA\)](#), [Kennisland](#), [Creative Commons](#) and key stakeholders of the DPLA and Europeana networks following a [public consultation](#) period from which a [whitepaper](#) was finalized [considering the community feedback](#).

2. Why is Europeana participating in rightsstatements.org?

Europeana opens up access to over 50 million digital records from over 3,500 cultural heritage organizations in 35 countries. It has been instrumental in developing an approach to make it easy for cultural heritage institutions to clearly communicate the copyright status of their collections, and for users to understand how they can access and use the content they share.

The [Europeana Licensing Framework](#), as it stands, comprises two types of rights statements, 8 statements (licenses) provided by Creative Commons (CC), and 5 statements developed by Europeana. The differences in these two types of rights statements are that the CC rights statements are internationally standardized and can be used worldwide, whilst the Europeana ones are limited to institutions contributing to Europeana due to language, branding and legal compliance. The Europeana statements are therefore limited in their use and not interoperable outside of Europeana.

The Europeana Licensing Framework has been recognized as a model of best practice to build on and engage with at international levels. Europeana has shared its experiences to help inform and develop rs.org in collaboration with the DPLA, Kennisland, Creative Commons and the Europeana Network.





3. What are the benefits of using the new rights statements provided by rightsstatements.org?

The key advantages to using rights statements provided by rightsstatements.org (rs.org) in place of the existing Europeana model are:

- Data partners can standardise on internationally interoperable rights statements to make it easier to communicate the copyright status of cultural heritage content;
- Increased interoperability of data including machine readability improving discovery, use and visibility;
- Improved user experience from use of the same search/filter criteria for searches on multiple platforms (initially DPLA and Europeana).

To benefit from such international interoperability and being able to search for collections on multiple platforms and in a machine readable format, Europeana is committed to replacing the existing Europeana hosted rights statements with their rightsstatements.org equivalents before the end of 2016.

4. How will the new rights statements work?

The rights statements fall in three categories: Statements for works that are in copyright, statements for works that are not in copyright and statements for works where the copyright status is unclear. The statements provide end users with easy to understand high level information about the copyright and re-use status of digital objects.

The rights statements have been designed with both human users and machine users, such as search engines, in mind and make use of the latest semantic web technology.

Each rights statement is located at a unique URL in the rightsstatements.org namespace. As with the Creative Commons licenses and the existing Europeana rights statements, the new rs.org rights statements can be used to express the copyright and re-use statement by including the URL of a statement in the metadata associated with a digital object.

5. How will Europeana manage the transition from the current rights statements to the new rights statements?

Europeana will not adopt all the 11 rights statements that have been developed by rs.org as some of them have been specifically developed for other copyright law systems or are not in line with the principles of the Europeana Licensing Framework.

5a. Replacing Rights statements: Europeana will replace 4 of its existing rights statements with 4 new rights statements from rightsstatements.org. One of our existing rights statements (Rights Reserved - Paid Access) will be retired and we are proposing the addition of 2 new rights statements from rightsstatements.org to [the list of available rights statements](#) (see section 5c).

These following 4 new rights statements will work in the same way as the current ones, with



slight, but clarifying modifications to their label. For these there is no change to the copyright and/or re-use status of the digital objects they are associated with.

Existing rights statement	New rights statement ¹
Rights Reserved - Free Access http://europeana.eu/rights/rr-f.html	In Copyright
Orphan Work http://europeana.eu/rights/orphan-work-eu.html	In Copyright EU Orphan Work
Out of copyright - non commercial re-use http://europeana.eu/rights/out-of-copyright-non-commercial.html	No Copyright Non-Commercial Use Only
Unknown copyright status http://europeana.eu/portal/rights/unknown.html	Copyright Not Evaluated

5b. Removing Rights Statements: The existing Rights Reserved - Paid Access can no longer be supported by Europeana. Europeana will get into contact with all data partners who currently make use of the Rights Reserved - Paid Access statement to discuss the how to manage the transition from the old rights statement to a new one.

Existing rights statement	New rights statement
Rights Reserved - Paid Access http://europeana.eu/rights/rr-p.html	No longer supported

5c. New rights statements: Finally, Europeana will submit 2 new rights statements to the Copyright Working Group of the Europeana Network Association Members Council to discuss if these should be added to the rights statements that can be used on Europeana. The Copyright Working Group will be asked to formulate a recommendation for each rights statement. In the case of a positive recommendation, the statement(s) will be added to the list of available rights statements. In the case of a negative recommendations the statement(s) will not be added.

Existing rights statement	New rights statement
new (pending decision in copyright WG)	No Copyright Other Known Legal Restrictions
new (pending decision in copyright WG)	In Copyright- Educational Use Permitted

If the Copyright Working Group approves the addition of these two rights statements to the list of rightsstatements, Europeana will make use of 6 of the 11 rights statements provided by rightsstatements.org.

¹ Please see the whitepaper for more details about the new rights statements:
http://rightsstatements.org/files/160208recommendations_for_standardized_international_rights_statements_v1.1.pdf.



If you would like to join the Copyright Working Group of the Members Council and actively participate in this discussion, please contact Roxanne Peters, IPR Advisor, roxanne.peters@europeana.eu.

Digital objects labelled with one of the Creative Commons licenses, CC0 and the Public Domain mark will not be affected by the transition.

6. How will my existing content be affected by the transition to using new rights statements?

Existing content will only be affected if it currently uses the existing Rights Reserved - Paid Access right statement. For more information about what this means please see section 5c.

7. How will Europeana manage the transition from the current rights statements to the new rightsstatements.org equivalents?

Europeana will technically manage the transition from the old rights statements to the new rs.org equivalent. It will be done by automatically replacing the existing edm:rights values with their equivalent values from rs.org. We expect this process to be completed by the date of the 2016 AGM (early november 2016). The transition to the new rights statements will be discussed in the programmes of the spring and fall Aggregator Forum meetings.

8. How will Europeana support data partners in managing this transition?

Europeana will make every effort to manage the transition smoothly. We will update the Europeana Network via all relevant events and communication channels on all important developments relating to the new rights statements. We will also contact all data partners that are currently using the Rights Reserved - Paid Access rights statement to make sure that the replacement statement is correct.

9. When will the new rights statements start being used?

The DPLA plans to begin implementing the rightsstatements.org statements with their partners from the start of summer 2016, and those efforts are expected to continue into 2017. Europeana plans to implement the changes by November 2016.

10. Who can I contact if I have any questions about rightstatements.org?

You can contact Henning Scholz (henning.scholz@europeana.eu) or Roxanne Peters (roxanne.peters@europeana.eu).