

Understanding Intellectual Property



Some of you may have seen this viral photo and news story. A monkey took a “selfie” – which was in itself amusing. However, an interesting debate ensued as to who owned the copyright to this photo. Please read this [NBC news article](#) for brief background on the story. Here is the determination in the “[monkey selfie](#)” case.

Copyright Basics

Please now read pages 1 – 6 of the following United States Federal government document on [copyright](#). Then, please read this material from Brigham Young library, and pay special attention to “[Copyright Myths](#)”. Here is another resource developed by the United States government to help you distinguish the [differences between copyright and trademarks](#) – a common point of confusion.

Creative Commons

Creative Commons is an important, albeit relatively new, part of the overall copyright conversation. Creative Common (or CC) is a mechanism by which copyright holders can give advanced fairly explicit permission(s) as to how their work may be used.

To learn more about CC, please read the following pages:

- [Understanding Creative Commons](#)
- [Understanding various licenses](#)

Public Domain

Another option available to copyright holders is to place their work in the [public domain](#). As you read, this public domain becomes automatic 70 years after the death of the copyright holder. However, [Creative Commons CCO](#) makes it possible to immediately release material to the public domain.