

How to Search for Open Educational Resources (OERs)

Freely accessible resources found on the Internet are not necessarily “open” and may require permission for use. **Free does not mean open.**





To be considered ‘open’ and OER, the material must have:

1. Permissions granted by their creator allowing others to Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix or Redistribute (the 5Rs of OERs).










Retain - make, own, and control a copy of the resource (e.g., download and keep your own copy)
Revise - edit, adapt, and modify your copy of the resource (e.g., translate into another language)
Remix - combine your original or revised copy of the resource with other existing material to create something new (e.g., make a mashup)
Reuse - use your original, revised, or remixed copy of the resource publicly (e.g., on a website, in a presentation, in a class)
Redistribute - share copies of your original, revised, or remixed copy of the resource with others (e.g., post a copy online or give one to a friend)

<https://opencontent.org/definition/>

2. Permissions are granted through open-copyright licences (such as the Creative Commons licences), or by default if the material is public domain and no longer falls under copyright. The Creative Commons core permissions are:

BY 	– Credit must be given to the creator
NC 	– Only non-commercial uses of the work are permitted
SA 	– Adaptations must be shared under the same terms
ND 	– No derivatives or adaptations of the work are permitted

OERs grant some or all the permissions listed in creative Commons Licence. Check individual materials for specific permissions.

Most open  Least open		Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, Redistribute – no copyright
		
		Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, Redistribute – with credit
		Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, Redistribute – with credit and share using same licence
		Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, Redistribute – with credit for non-commercial use only
		Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, Redistribute – with credit and share using same licence for non-commercial use only
		Retain and redistribute – the original resource with credit without any adaptations
		Retain and redistribute –the original resource with credit without any adaptations for non-commercial use only

Please refer to the Library Guide for more information on Creative Commons Resources: <https://guides.lib.monash.edu/CreativeCommons>

Search OERs

Access [this list](#) compiled by the Library to search for OER materials. Please note that the list is not exhaustive and will be updated from time to time as the library discovers more sites.

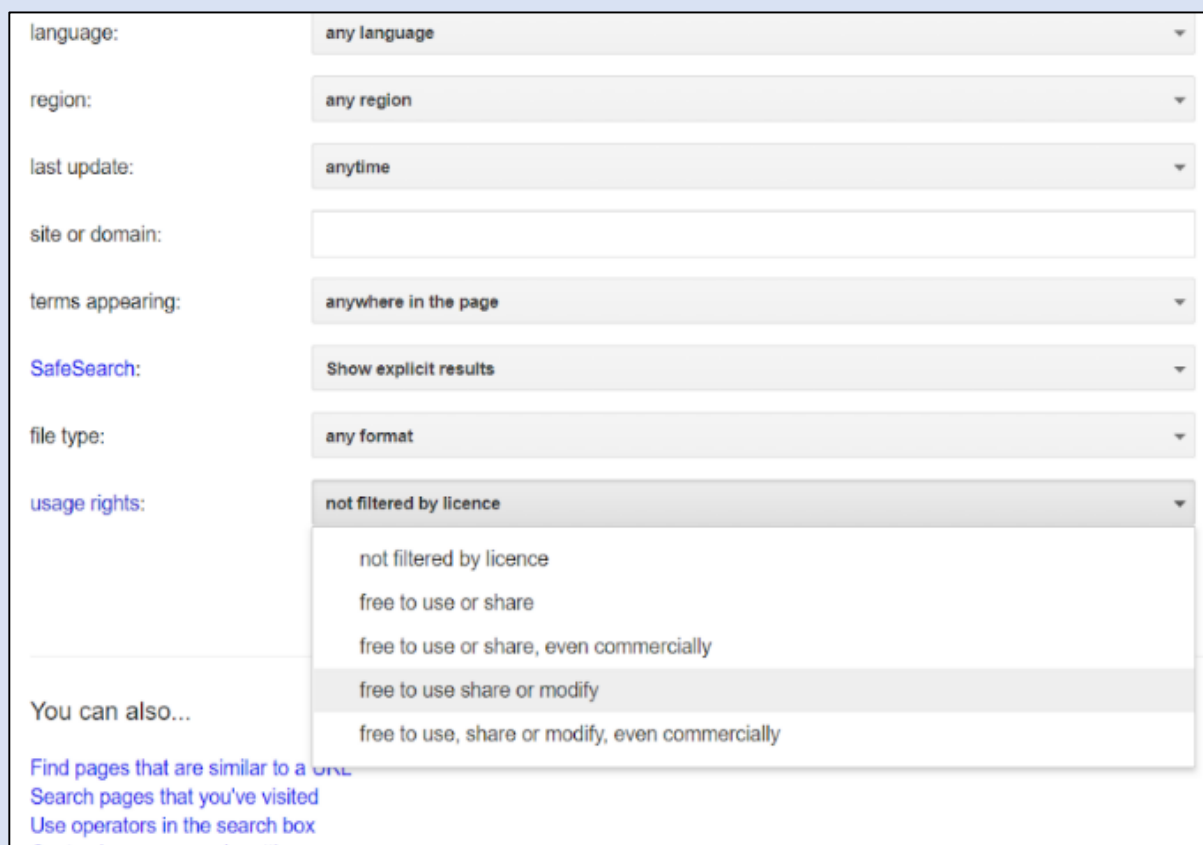
Materials include Open journals, Open textbooks, Online courses, Videos, Presentation slides, Course outlines etc.

Some other search options:

Google Advanced Search Option (Filter by Usage Rights)

When using Google Advanced Search, you can **filter by “Usage rights”**.

“Free to use, share or modify” can be used.



The image shows a screenshot of the Google Advanced Search interface. The filters are as follows:

- language: any language
- region: any region
- last update: anytime
- site or domain: (empty text box)
- terms appearing: anywhere in the page
- SafeSearch: Show explicit results
- file type: any format
- usage rights: not filtered by licence (dropdown menu is open)

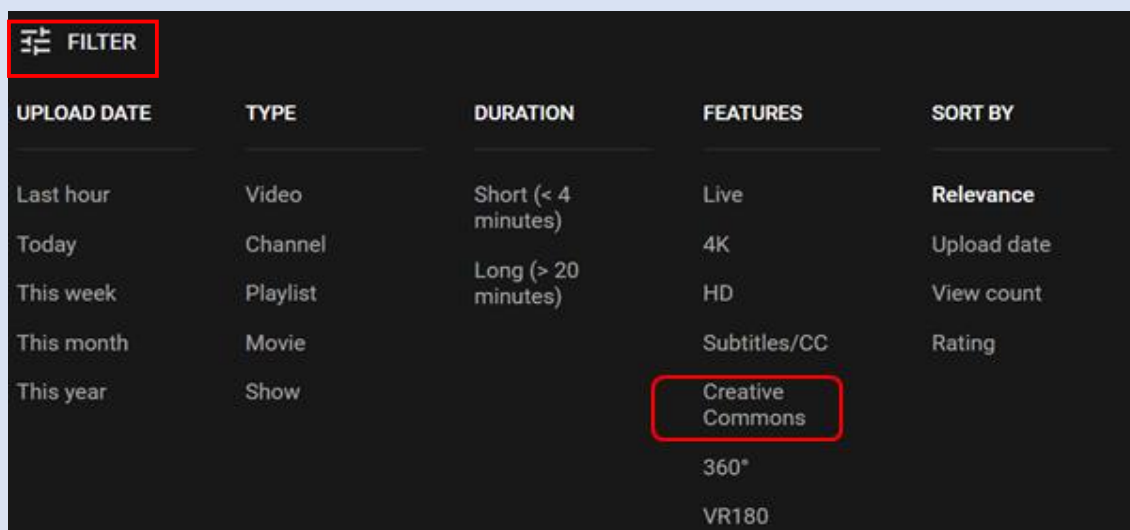
The 'usage rights' dropdown menu is open, showing the following options:

- not filtered by licence
- free to use or share
- free to use or share, even commercially
- free to use share or modify (highlighted)
- free to use, share or modify, even commercially

Below the filters, there is a section titled "You can also..." with the following links:

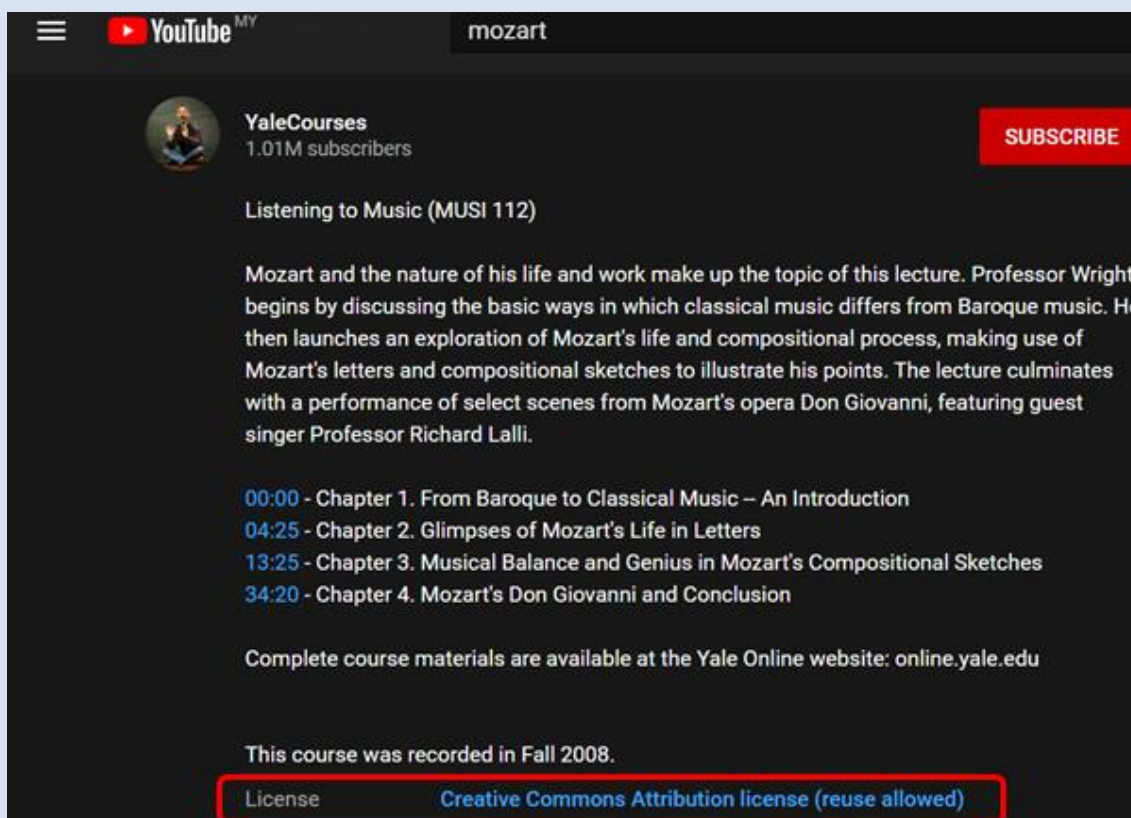
- Find pages that are similar to a URL
- Search pages that you've visited
- Use operators in the search box

YouTube search (Filter by Creative Commons)



A screenshot of the YouTube search filter menu. The 'FILTER' button is highlighted with a red box. The filter options are as follows:

UPLOAD DATE	TYPE	DURATION	FEATURES	SORT BY
Last hour	Video	Short (< 4 minutes)	Live	Relevance
Today	Channel		4K	Upload date
This week	Playlist	Long (> 20 minutes)	HD	View count
This month	Movie		Subtitles/CC	Rating
This year	Show		Creative Commons	
			360*	
			VR180	



A screenshot of a YouTube video page for 'Listening to Music (MUSI 112)' by YaleCourses. The video is from the channel 'YaleCourses' (1.01M subscribers). The video description includes a 'SUBSCRIBE' button and a 'License' section. The license is highlighted with a red box and reads: 'Creative Commons Attribution license (reuse allowed)'. The video content includes a list of chapters and a link to the complete course materials at online.yale.edu.

00:00 - Chapter 1. From Baroque to Classical Music – An Introduction
04:25 - Chapter 2. Glimpses of Mozart's Life in Letters
13:25 - Chapter 3. Musical Balance and Genius in Mozart's Compositional Sketches
34:20 - Chapter 4. Mozart's Don Giovanni and Conclusion

Complete course materials are available at the Yale Online website: online.yale.edu

This course was recorded in Fall 2008.

License: [Creative Commons Attribution license \(reuse allowed\)](#)

Quick links to OA resources:

Open Access Journals: [DOAJ](#), an online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.

Open Access Books: [DOAB](#), a discovery service for OA books.

Open Access Repositories: [OpenDOAR](#) is an authoritative directory of academic open access repositories.