

## What can I share in the Project Bank?

You can share anything in the Project Bank that you have created yourself and that you want to share under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 license. Here are four Project development scenarios to help you determine whether or not your project can be submitted.

1. You created your Project from scratch using only things (music, pictures, videos, written words, artwork, etc.) that you created yourself.

You can upload your Project.

2. You created your Project using a mix of your own and other people's work (such as music, written words, pictures, videos, artwork, etc.) that carry a Public Domain designation or a CC-BY license. Perhaps you used material from the *Vital Signs* Site, such as images from species observations, field notes, comments, discussions, videos, podcasts, or other things that have a CC-BY license.

You can upload your project. Make sure you attribute the material that you did not create yourself to those who did in the way they specified.

3. You created your Project using material (such as music, written words, pictures, videos, artwork, etc.) that other people have created and that carry another Creative Commons license or a Copyright. You must make sure your use of their work is a "Fair Use" before you can upload your Project.

How can you tell if you have made "Fair Use" of other people's licensed material?

Your use of copyrighted or licensed material is considered "Fair Use" if you added value to, changed the purpose of, or otherwise transformed the original material. You can determine if you have made "Fair Use" of copyrighted material by answering the following questions:

- Would someone who can access the project that you have created still want to purchase the original material for its original purpose? In other words, is your project different enough from the original material that no one would think that one could replace the other?
- Is your use of the copyrighted material different from the use for which it was created? In other words, have you used it for something other than for what it was originally created?
- Have you added cultural value to the original material? In other words, will many people benefit from the changes you have made to the original material and/ or how you have used it?

If your answer to these questions is yes, you have most likely transformed the copyrighted material enough to have your use of the copyrighted work be considered "Fair Use." You can upload your project.

4. Projects that reproduce copyrighted material without adding value to it, repurposing it, or otherwise transforming it may **not** be posted in the Project Bank.

**These can be complicated issues and this is not legal advice.** If you are still unsure whether or not you have made "Fair Use" of copyrighted material there are some online resources to help you learn more, including the "Shepard Fairey and Fair Use" Challenge available at the Project New Media Literacies Learning Library website.

If you still need help determining whether or not you have made "Fair Use" please contact [vitalsigns@gmri.org](mailto:vitalsigns@gmri.org) with your question and write "Creative Commons" in the subject line.