



Sharing your WW1 research: Copyright and intellectual property

Whenever we use material that was created by someone else, we need to think carefully about whether we are allowed to share it with other people.

Intellectual property rights like copyright, patents and designs are very complicated. These rights also change as laws are updated, which can make it difficult to keep up with current rules.

This guide will help you find information about copyright and intellectual property written by people who specialise in knowing how these rules apply to their area of expertise.

Using material from websites

If you've used websites like Ancestry and Find My Past for your WW1 research then you've probably had to agree to certain terms and conditions. If you've downloaded any information from sites like the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or any other online source of information about WW1, you will have been told what you can and can't do with the copies of images and information you've received.

These terms and conditions are binding, and it's very important that you refer back to them before you try to share anything that you've not created yourself. If you have any doubts about what you can do with information you've downloaded, then visit the websites again and look at the terms you agreed to.

Some of the information you've collected may have been made available under what's called a Creative Commons Licence. You can find out more about Creative Commons Licences here: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>. If one of these licences does apply to material you've downloaded, then it will be very clearly shown.

Using material from visits

There may also be limits on what you can do with material you've collected on a trip – photographs of a WW1 exhibition in your local museum, for example. If you're not sure we recommend that you contact organisations directly, and ask their advice about what you are allowed to do.



Using material from Gloucestershire Archives

Guidance for anyone wishing to use material from Gloucestershire Archives is available on their website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/article/107436/Publishing-documents.

If you've used material from any other museum or archives service we strongly recommend contacting them to discuss how you're allowed to use it. This applies equally to UK and international services, as rules on copyright may be different in other countries.

Using material from The National Archives

The National Archives has created guidance on copyright for anyone wanting to use material obtained from their collections: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/information-management/use-of-tna-materials.pdf.

They also have a general guide to copyright and Crown copyright on their website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/information-management/copyright-related-rights.pdf.

Other resources

If you want to know more about copyright and other aspects of intellectual property, the UK Government's website offers further guidance:

- All guidance on Copyright: www.gov.uk/intellectual-property/copyright
- Guidance about using somebody else's intellectual property: www.gov.uk/using-somebody-elses-intellectual-property/copyright
- Guidance on exceptions to copyright: www.gov.uk/exceptions-to-copyright.

