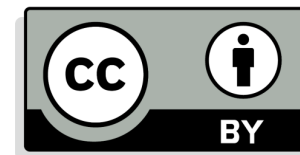




IS THAT ALLOWED?

A SHORT GUIDE TO CREATIVE COMMONS (CC LICENCES)

22.10.2026 | ANNA LÜSCHER



INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

▶ **Introduction**

▶ **CC Licences**

▶ **Usage**

▶ **Resources**

LICENCES ARE CONTRACTS

AND THEY CAN NOT BE CHANGED LATER!

Graphics: Hauss, J. (2025). Open Science-/Open Access-Grafikpaket. Zenodo.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15081395> Source:
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<https://av.tib.eu/series/1746>. Licenced under CC-BY 4.0



WHEN ARE LICENCES NEEDED / WHY USE ONE?

When is a licence needed?

- to clearly signal which rights apply to a work
- to allow the work to be reused beyond what copyright law allows

Why use an open licence?

- Standardises permissions
- Legally secure
- Free of charge

CC LICENCES

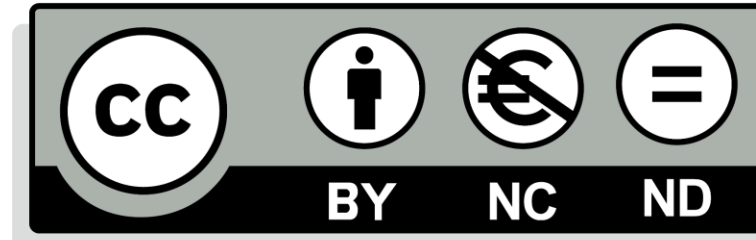
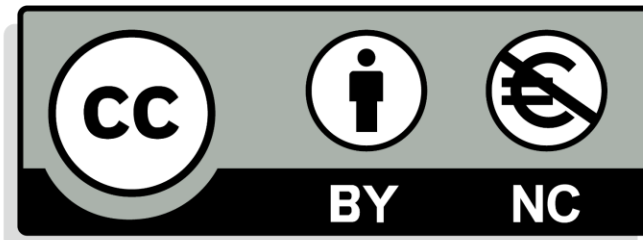
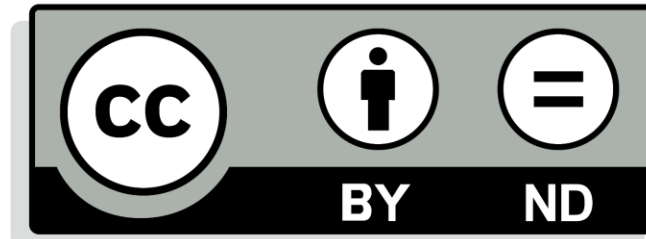
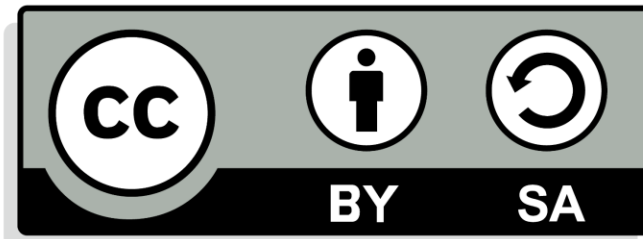
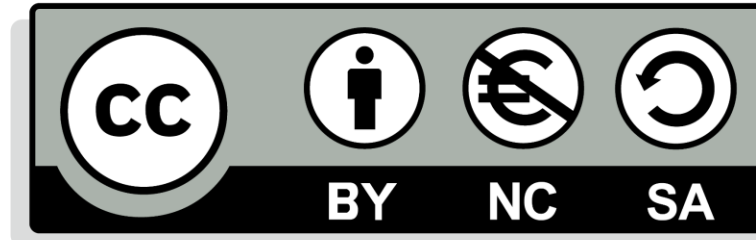
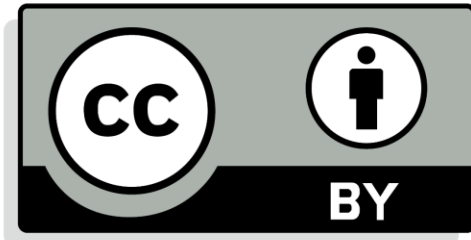


- Founded in 2001
- For all types of works: texts, images, ...
- rights holder grants right of use to the public
use = acceptance
- The licences are concerned with „copyright“ only
 - Not **personality rights**
 - Not data protection
 - Not trademarks
- The licensor must actually hold the rights!

Copyright in Germany:

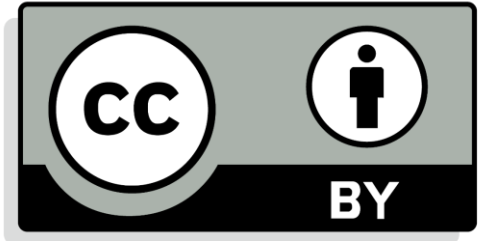
Author's Rights /
Personality right
(unalienable)
+
Rights of Use

CREATIVE COMMONS



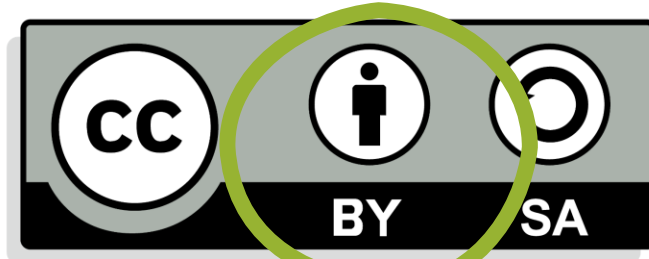
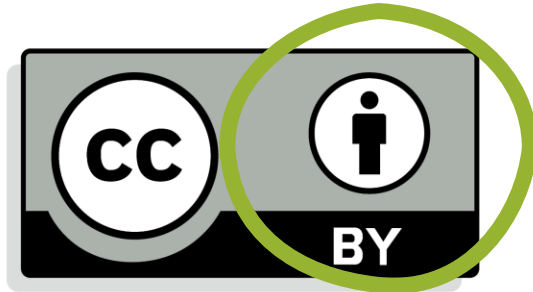
CREATIVE COMMONS

CC BY



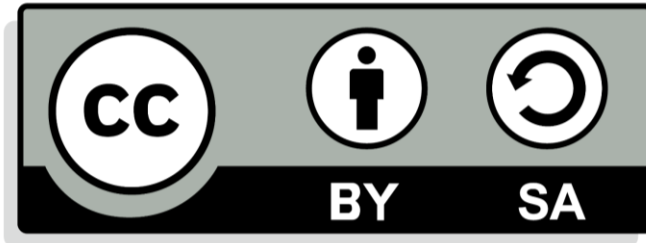
The creator must be credited.
(Remember: „This was created **by**...”)

CREATIVE COMMONS



CREATIVE COMMONS

CC BY-SA



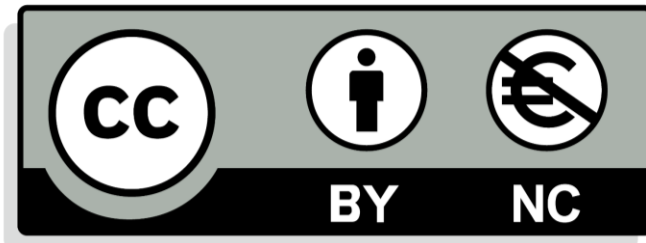
The creator must be credited.
(Remember: „This was created **by**...”

+

The material (or any derivatives created from it) must be shared under the same licence
(Remember: „**Share Alike**“)

CREATIVE COMMONS

CC BY-NC



The creator must be credited.
(Remember: „This was created **by**...“)

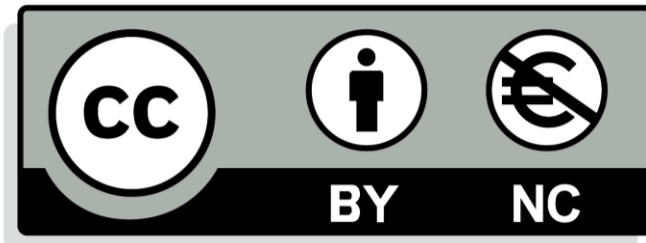
+

The material may only be used
noncommercially.
(Remember: „**Non**commercial“)

CREATIVE COMMONS

CC BY-NC

Problem 1:
But what does
noncommercial
actually mean?



The creator must be credited.
(Remember: „This was created **by...**“

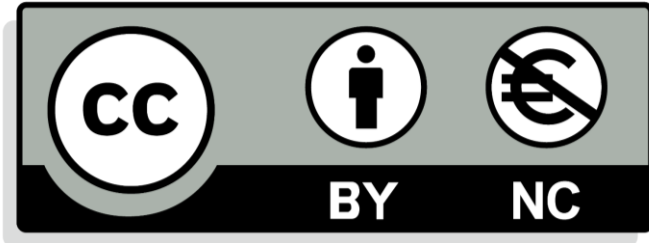
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The material may only be used
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CC BY-NC

Examples provided by Michaela Fröhlich, Geschäftsbereich
„Informationsmanagement und Bibliothek“ (IMAB)
Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung (IAB)



Problem 2:
Only the publisher
may profit

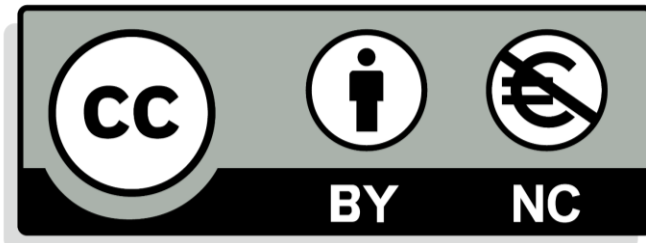
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CREATIVE COMMONS

CC BY-NC

Assessment:
CC BY NC is not
clear cut Open
Access



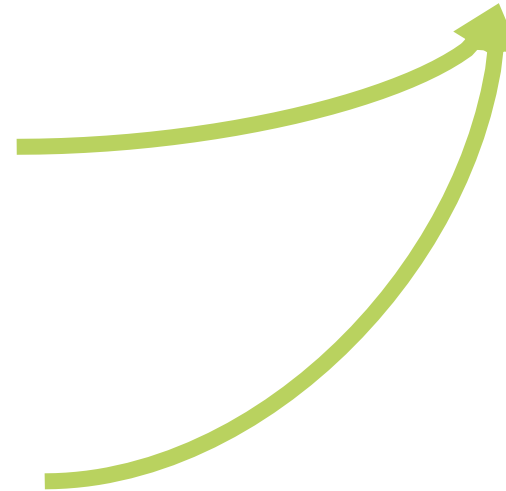
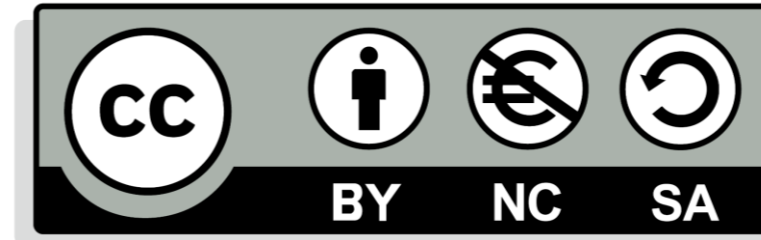
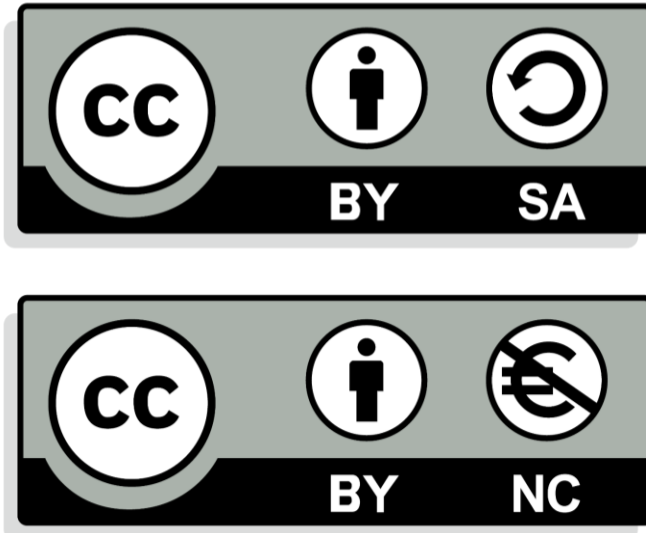
The creator must be credited.
(Remember: „This was created **by...**“

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The material may only be used
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CREATIVE COMMONS

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Cite author
+
Share alike
+
NonCommercial

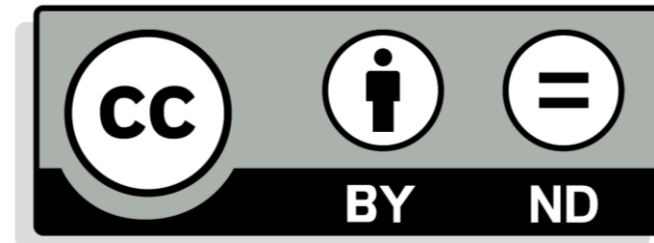
CREATIVE COMMONS

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The creator must be credited.
(Remember: „This was created **by**...”“

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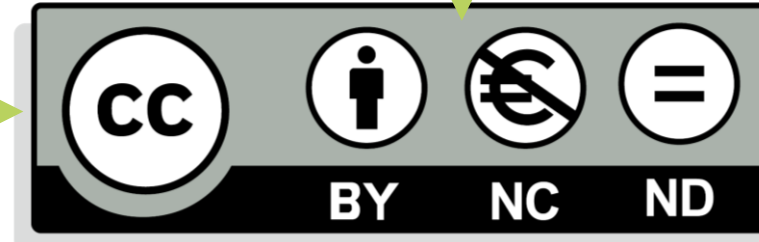
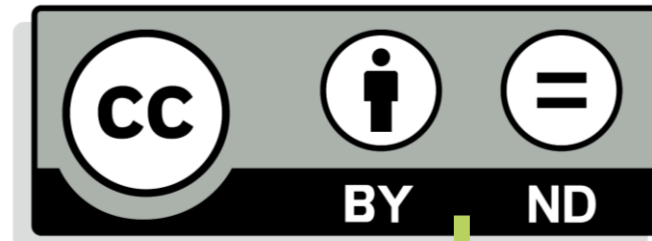
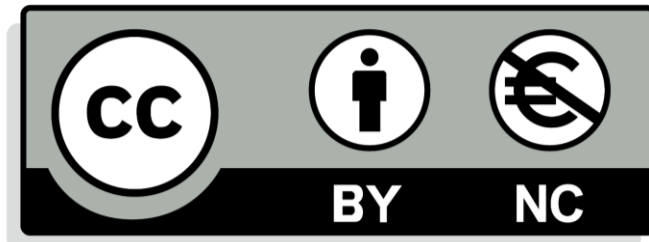
Reusers may not adapt the work
while using it.
(Remember: „**No Derivatives**“)



CREATIVE COMMONS

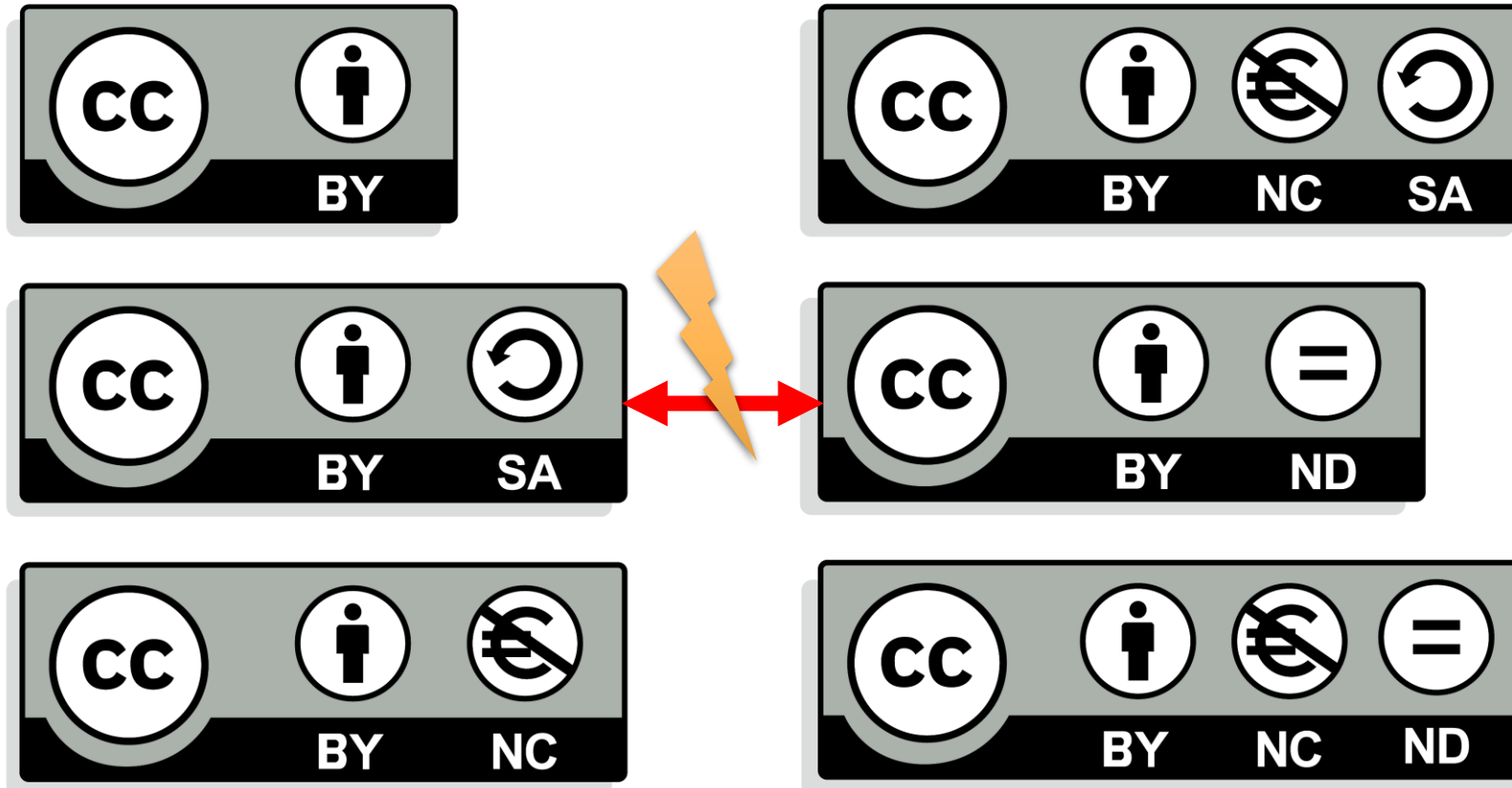
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Cite author
+
NonCommerical
+
No Derivatives



CREATIVE COMMONS

The combination that does not work



HOW TO USE CC LICENCES

Applying them to your own work



Ask for help if unsure: You can ask us or website like this: <https://creativecommons.org/chooser/>



Choose a licence

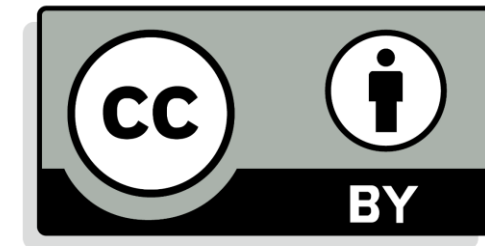


Include the licence information in your work

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HOW TO USE CC LICENCES

Citing works with a CC Licence

TASL (generally)	
• Title • Author • Source • Licence	Cite as normal (e.g. Harvard Style, APA, ...) + add licence
Figure 1: „Title“ by [Author], found on [website/ebook]. Licenced under CC BY 4.0. Modified by translating from English to German.	Figure 1: [Title of Work] by [Author/Creator], [Year]. Licensed under [CC License Type] (URL) [Accessed: Date].

Add:

- Declare modifications
- Declare Version

FURTHER RESOURCES

- IFLA Open Access Vocabulary: <https://repository.ifla.org/items/325341ed-b8f4-4363-854c-fe9346b115cf>
- Open Access Network: <https://open-access.network/en/information/legal-issues/licences>
- iRIGHTS info: <https://irights.info/kategorie/themen/creative-commons-lizenzen>
- TIB Hannover: <https://av.tib.eu/search?q=creative%20commons>
- FZJ Intranet RDM Portal: <https://go.fzj.de/rdm-legal>

CONTACT

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Thank you!

Questions?

