

Trust me. I'm a License Selector

Licensing for Digital Humanities

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The Problem

- Copyright framework grants **exclusive rights to authors to copy their works**, make them available to the public and make derivative works (such as language corpora).
- In the EU databases are protected against unauthorized extraction and re-utilization of their contents.

The Solution

- Any distribution of data or software must include explicit licenses
- Authors must assign the license to their work

Problem²

- Authors are not legal experts
- Law is scary
- License texts are long and complicated
- Result: Authors avoid this in 3 ways (all bad):
 1. Not distributing their works
 2. Distributing without license
 3. Using whatever random license they have heard about

Solution²

- A tool to help authors to choose a license that makes sense:
 - E.g. data/software difference
 - Respecting the limitations of data
 - As free as possible

Public License

- Grants certain rights not to one particular user, but **to the general public** (everybody)
- (too) Many choices:
 - 78 OpenSource licenses (OSI approved) for software
 - Creative commons, Open Data Commons, and more for data

Available tools

- [Licentia](#)
- [ELRA License Wizard](#)
- [Public License Selector](#)

Available tools

- Licentia
- ELRA License Wizard
- **Public License Selector**
 - Something for all conditions (almost)
 - Sorted by permissiveness (i.e. best on top)
 - No expertise required: As simple as possible, explanations included

Choose a license

Answer the questions or use the search to find the license you want

What do you want to deposit?

Search for a license...

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Public License Selector

in use: embedded in a web application
(submission workflow)

References

- **Public License Selector:**
 - Code: <https://github.com/ufal/public-license-selector>
 - Try: <https://ufal.github.io/public-license-selector/>
- Open Source Initiative: <https://opensource.org/licenses/alphabetical>
- Creative Commons: <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/>
- Open Data Commons: <http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/>