

**THE DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA
POLICY STATEMENT ON METADATA**

PREAMBLE

The DPLA aims to make the cultural and scientific record available, free of charge, to all through databases of metadata. The DPLA, for this purpose, has undertaken the task of ingesting, indexing, enriching, and making available descriptive metadata and wishes to make such metadata widely available for reuse.

The DPLA wishes to promote innovation in the development of applications and tools that use and rely on this metadata. In order to foster such innovation, the DPLA is committed to ensuring such metadata is unencumbered by legal restrictions. This policy and statement on metadata contained in the DPLA's databases reflects that commitment. To that same end, the DPLA believes this policy is in accord with the letter and spirit of United States copyright law and would be fully respected in a court of law.

The DPLA hopes that the content and resources in the library will be put to creative uses that educate, inform, and empower current and future generations.

01. The Vast Majority of Metadata is Not Subject to Copyright Restrictions.

The DPLA believes that the vast majority of metadata is not subject to copyright, because it either expresses only objective facts (which are not original) or constitutes expression so limited by the number of ways the underlying ideas can be expressed that such expression has merged with those ideas.

02. The DPLA's Partners Share the DPLA's Commitment.

The DPLA's partners share the DPLA's vision of and commitment to freely sharable metadata to promote innovation. The DPLA's partners agree that the vast majority of metadata is not subject to copyright. To the extent that metadata provided by the DPLA's partners may be protected by copyright, however, those partners have agreed to dedicate such metadata to the public domain pursuant to a [CC0 license](#). This means that *any raw metadata imported into the DPLA, which is protected by copyright, is provided under a CC0 license.*

03. The DPLA Asserts No Rights Over its Database of Metadata and Dedicates its Contributions to the Public Domain.

The DPLA hereby expressly waives any and all rights the DPLA might have with respect to metadata in the library, including rights arising from the DPLA's selection and arrangement thereof. To the extent that the DPLA's own contributions to selecting and arranging such metadata may be protected by copyright, the DPLA dedicates such contributions to the public domain pursuant to a [CC0 license](#).

04. Free and Unencumbered Access to Metadata.

Given the purposes of the policy and the copyright status of the metadata, and pursuant to the DPLA's terms of service, the DPLA's users are free to harvest, collect, modify, and/or otherwise use any metadata contained in the DPLA.