Open Definition v2.1

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> *The **Open Definition** makes precise the meaning of "open" with respect to knowledge, promoting a robust commons in which anyone may participate, and interoperability is maximized.*
>
> *Summary: Knowledge is open if anyone is free to access, use, modify, and share it — subject, at most, to measures that preserve provenance and openness.*
>
> *This essential meaning matches that of "open" with respect to software as in the Open Source Definition and is synonymous with "free" or "libre" as in the Free Software Definition and Definition of Free Cultural Works.*
>
> *The term **Work** will be used to denote the item or piece of knowledge being transferred.*
>
> *The term **License** refers to the legal conditions under which the work is provided.*
>
> *The term **Public Domain** denotes the absence of copyright and similar restrictions, whether by default or waiver of all such conditions.*
>
> *The key words "must", "must not", "should", and "may" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC2119 - Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels.* and RFC8174 - Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words.

- **Note:** Also see 4.1.7 Specifying Requirements.

1. Open Works

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> *An open work must satisfy the following requirements in its distribution: Open Knowledge Foundation - Open Definition*

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> *The work must be in the public domain or provided under an open license (as defined in Section 2). Any additional terms accompanying the work (such as a terms of use, or patents held by the*

licensor) must not contradict the work's public domain status or terms of the license. Open Knowledge Foundation - Open Definition

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History

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> *The Open Definition was initially derived from the Open Source Definition, which in turn was derived from the original Debian Free Software Guidelines, and the Debian Social Contract of which they are a part, which were created by Bruce Perens and the Debian Developers. Bruce later used the same text in creating the Open Source Definition. This definition is substantially derivative of those documents and retains their essential principles. Richard Stallman was the first to push the ideals of software freedom which we continue. Open Knowledge Foundation - Open Definition*

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