

Would you like to find some images that you can use in your academic work? We've created a guide that lists several useful image collections with images that are free to use without getting special permission.

First, we list some general image collections. A good place to start is with Unsplash. This collection offers copyright-free images. You don't need to ask permission to use them. But it's still a good idea to provide attribution, even if it's not required.

A wide variety of images are available, like nature photography, architecture, or current events. When you find an image you want to use, you can select the size you want to download. You can also copy the photographer's name and link in order to give proper attribution.

Similar collections are listed on our guide, like Pexels, Pixabay, and others. Pixabay is a good choice if you're looking for illustrations, animated GIFs, and even videos.

If you're looking for something that you can't find in these collections, often a search in Google Images will turn up what you need. However, be aware that you need to filter by "usage rights" in the tools menu in order to find images that are free to use. Even then, it's a good idea to double-check the license when you visit the page that contains the image, just to make sure it's free to use.

Another section of our guide, lists collections from museums, libraries, and archives. We include links to the British Museum, Library of Congress, Vienna City Library, and more. The Library of Congress organizes their free images into sets by theme, such as main streets, skyscrapers, natural disasters, and even hats or shoes. When you visit one of the theme pages, you can browse through the historical photographs and documents. When you select an image you can download it in different sizes or formats, and also see how to correctly cite the item in different citation styles.

The Europeana collection is especially interesting to search or browse. On the search results screen you use the "can I use this?" filter to find images with a license that allows free use.

So feel free to browse all of these collections, where you'll find many interesting images, videos, animated GIFs, and illustrations that are free to use. Check the guidelines for the citation style you're using, such as MLA or APA, and look up the specific requirements for how to cite photographs and other images.

If you have any questions, feel free to send us an email at contactLibrary@ceu.edu.