Copyright is the right to control the use of one’s own work. Creators or owners of materials can give, sell or license this right to others and it is illegal for others to use this original material without their consent. Consent can be granted without communication if an attached license states the level of consent granted and if proper attribution must be made.

The WMO Global Campus initiative seeks to maximize reuse of learning resources as one way to reduce overall costs of training to WMO Members. However, the initiative wishes to respect the rights of resource creators and to acknowledge their contributions. The standard practices below are designed to facilitate the use of the Learning Resource Catalogue by ensuring that the rights of the creator and owner of a resource are maintained, while clearly indicating how resources may be reused.

For the Guiding Principles for WMO Global Campus, see the final page of the document.

Copyrights Practice Standards

1. The Global Campus is dedicated to promoting open use and access to learning resources among WMO Members.
2. All users of WMO Global Campus resources should respect the legitimate rights of holders of intellectual property (IP).
3. All contributors must ensure that there is no infringement of copyright within the resources they share, including text, images, photographs, videos, audio, etc. own by other copyright holders. Inclusion of third party, licensed material is acceptable if proper attribution is made, according to the license used.
4. The Global Campus encourages, but does not require, the use of open licenses for non-profit purposes. The framework known as Creative Commons (CC) offers a range of open license options to match the level of openness desired. See below for a summary of CC options.
5. Contributors should clearly indicate on their work, or within the work metadata, the specific open license used, if such license is used. This will help ensure that resources found through search mechanisms will be used properly.
6. Contributors who do not wish to use open licenses should mark their work with standard copyright protection notation, using the symbol “©” along with the year of publication, and link to their specific copyright policy if one exists.
7. Contributors must clarify with their employers the copyright status of work created as part of their duties, and must attribute copyright properly to the employer or the individual copyright holder.
8. When adapting shared resources, users must be careful not to misrepresent the intentions of the creator. The intended meaning of the original should be preserved through the adaptation, and changes or additions that expand on the work should be indicated. Work inspired by shared resources, but not using original elements such as words or images, should be considered a new resource. In this case, citation may be better way of acknowledging the original. If in doubt, users should request review by the original creators for proper attribution.
9. Under no circumstances may borrowed resources be sold as original works without written permission of the copyright holder.

10. The WMO Global Campus recognises that legal frameworks on copyrights differ between countries, including “fair use” in educational contexts. For all reuse of materials without a clearly articulated open license, i.e. those carrying a standard copyright (© + date), permission for reuse must be granted by the owner of the work.

11. The use of hyperlinks to websites, including “deep links” to documents contained on websites, are not considered infringement of copyright.

12. The Global Campus does not allow downloading of websites on another web server, unless this permission is specifically granted.

13. Digital and analogue materials are treated the same for copyright purposes. Copies, digital or analogue, may be restricted by copyright.

14. Attribution of all materials used should follow stated requirements. In the event of a lack of instructions, international standards should be used, unless superseded by organisational standards.

15. The Global Campus will communicate these copyright practice standards to users on its websites and other documentation.

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i Note that use of third party, licensed work within a new work may also restrict the license that can be used by the contributor for that new work. It is the responsibility of the contributor to determine this.

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CC also provides tools that work in the “all rights granted” space of the public domain. The CC0 tool allows licensors to waive all rights and place a work in the public domain, and the Public Domain Mark allows any web user to “mark” a work as being in the public domain.
Guiding Principles for WMO Global Campus
(from the WMO Global Campus Roadmap)

The activities that develop as a result of the WMO Global Campus should honour the underlying guiding principles developed by the Working Group and contained in Annex II of the Roadmap. These principles recognize that a WMO Global Campus can provide a critical good to all WMO Members only if all have the potential to contribute and benefit, and if collaboration and sharing is conducted fairly.

1. Open participation: All education and training providers to WMO Members are encouraged to contribute and collaborate.

2. Shared responsibility: All participants should strive to bring value to the initiative.

3. Shared improvement goals: Participants will work toward continual improvement in education and training for WMO Members.

4. Shared collaboration goals: Participants will seek opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

5. Fairness in collaboration: Those collaborating will treat each other fairly and strive for mutually beneficial outcomes.

6. Shared quality goals: Those submitting offerings through WMO Global Campus mechanisms will recognize and follow agreed quality assurance principles.

7. Open sharing encouraged: All contributors will share as much as possible within the limits of institutional copyrights, intellectual property and any commercial considerations.

8. Respecting rights: All users of WMO Global Campus resources will respect and abide by the copyright and intellectual property of others.

9. Open source: Shared platforms will have community ownership and coordination for accessibility and sustainability.

10. Operates within WMO mechanisms: The WMO Global Campus operates within WMO bodies and mechanisms as an initiative of the WMO Education and Training Office, with guidance by the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training. Institutions and cooperatives outside WMO structures are welcome participants.

11. Guidance for participation: Participants can seek the advice of the WMO Education and Training Office, EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training, or other WMO bodies and mechanisms when needed.