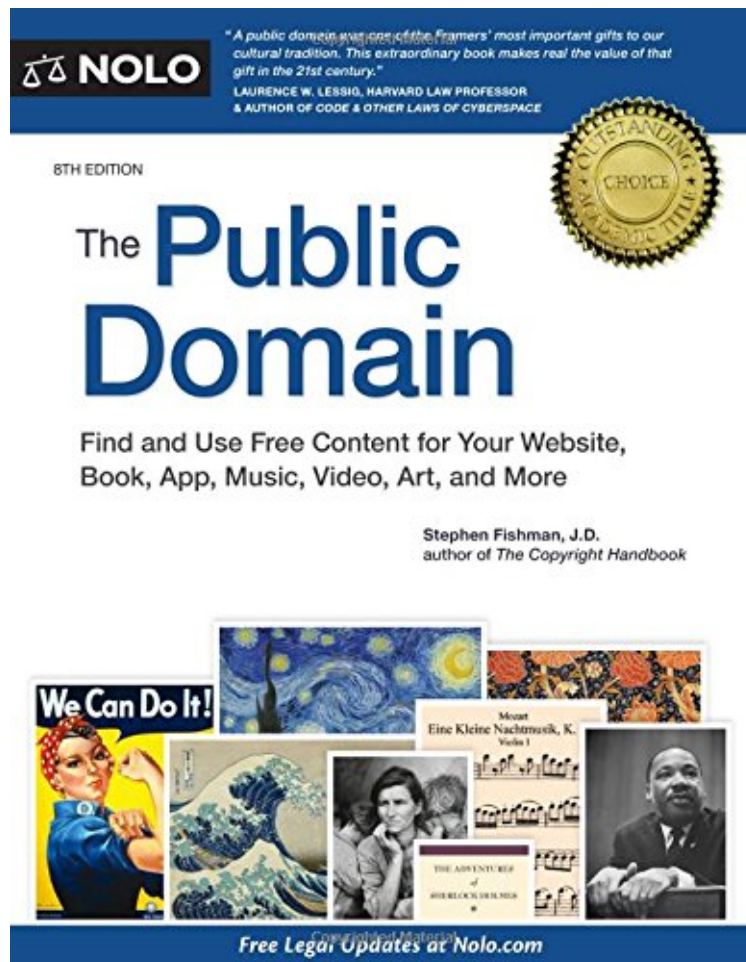


# Public Domain, The: How to Find Use Copyright-Free Writings, Music, Art More

Stephen Fishman J.D.

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**Stephen Fishman J.D. : Public Domain, The: How to Find Use Copyright-Free Writings, Music, Art More** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Public Domain, The: How to Find Use Copyright-Free Writings, Music, Art More:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Better be safe than sorry By WriteHeroics I was hoping this book would help us find artwork and photographs for my daughter to create book covers for author stories and novels. In the end, it does do that, but it's not 100% feeding a person the answer and it cannot, since copyright vs. public domain is a very, very complex process.+ The first half of the book has sections on: Writing Music Art Photography (small: about 10 pages) Movies Television Computer Software Architecture (about 7 pages) Choreography (less than 5 pages)+ Typical section will cover: \* What is public domain for that property \* How do you determine copyright for that property \* Where to find public domain for that property-- Not consistent in each section to cover the same level of public

domain concerns and/or resources.+ The second half of the book teaches a ton of info about databases, the Internet, copyright laws, etc. I tried jumping directly to Photographs and the section would say something like, "To determine if a photograph is public domain you must first determine the date/year it was published." Okay. How? What if the online photo doesn't say? We are further given directions, such as to research a database or two to determine if the photo you are interested in is in that database, which will tell you if it is copyright or public domain. Gosh darn! So I need to become a research expert (or so it feels) in order to get my real answer. Not the fault of the author or book, but simply the laws of copyright are at fault in that the processes are not easy. But, I would have appreciated more details from the book on what to expect or what critical information I need in order to use said database or archive.-- I'm a person who learns by example, so more actual examples of how a photo or art was truly determined public domain or not (even if it is only one possible facet in a complex system) would have helped a new person like myself grasp the copyright domain better. At least in the photograph section, this was lacking. OVERALL: There is a lot of good information in here to help protect a person from getting sued for violating copyright. I had book covers made by someone on Fiver dot com who simply stole copyright art from the Internet and slapped together a copy. Once I realized this a year or so later, I changed it out fast, but it could have cost me more than \$5 if the right/wrong people had found out. I feel more forewarned and there are several public domain sites and locations provided in this book, that I feel makes the cost of the book more than worth it...especially since I'll now be using public domain property instead of making ignorant mistakes. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By A reader This book is a fantastic reference and a big help in so many ways. Copyright laws can be complex and mysterious, and artists I have known have gotten involved in serious struggles, both time consuming and costly, over use of material that they thought was public domain. I love that author Stephen J. Fishman, J.D. goes out of his way to make the writing both intelligible and thorough. He explains details of the law in simple language, defining terms that may be misleading; illustrating his main points with examples; and clarifying the wording further where needed. He covers a wide range of topics, from broad topics like writings, music, photography, choreography, etc., to traps for the unwary; the internet; use of public domain outside the U.S., etc. Now I even know what to do if I want to use an image of Donald Duck in some way. I have used several other Nolo books over the years, and have found them uniformly well written, accessible, and reliable. This one is no exception. Most highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A resource to help designers wade through the muddy waters of copyright and Public Domain By Sarasota Suncoast Reviewer If you are a web designer, graphic designer, videographer or creative being who finds and uses "assets" from the Internet or elsewhere - this book is a great reference to help understand copyright and the public domain. Public Domain in this NOLO edition is characterized by "creative works that for some reason or another are not protected by copyright law are ordinarily free for others to use". But it gets really gray and fuzzy at times. This book will help you parse out the gray areas and think about the sources you use. It will provide benchmarks for the designer to meet out the finer points of copyright and use. Each chapter is arranged with its own table of contents and this helps make this book more of a reference book that you can use piecemeal as needed once you make it through the first two chapters. This book DOES provide some sources for materials in the public domain. But those could change over time so the emphasis is not on sources for material as much as it is theory. Please keep that in mind when purchasing. Another great resource from NOLO providing free legal updates for its readers. A very good resource!

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A public domain was one of the Framers most important gifts to our cultural tradition. This extraordinary book makes real the value of that gift in the 21st century. Lawrence W. Lessig, Stanford Law Professor Author of *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace* A superb offering... Chicago Tribune How do you tell the difference between what's copyrighted and what isn't? A good starting point is ... *The Public Domain*. Associated Press About the Author Stephen Fishman has dedicated his career as an attorney and author to writing useful, authoritative, and recognized guides on business, taxation, and intellectual property matters for small businesses, entrepreneurs, independent contractors, and freelancers. He is the author of 20 books and hundreds of articles, and has been quoted in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, and many other publications. Among his books are *Every Landlord's Tax Deduction Guide*, *Deduct It! Lower Your Small Business Taxes*, and *Working for Yourself: Law and Taxes for Independent*

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