

The Free Image Directory

***More Free Images Than You Can Shake
A Whole Forest Of Sticks At!***

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Introduction

Welcome to this massive listing of sources of royalty-free images you can use in your online (or offline) business.

This is by no means intended to be an exhaustive list. There are so many websites out there that we could never include them all. However, these sites are some of the best we could find and you will never scratch the surface of the millions of images available from the sources in this guide.

The listings are split into four sections...

- **Public Domain Images** - Images that are generally completely free to use for any purpose (however, there are some exceptions).
- **US Government Public Domain Images** - The US government is probably the biggest source of public domain material in the world so we have split these off into a section of its own.
- **Public Domain Vector Art Images** - Most images are 'raster images' – these do not scale well when you re-size them. The alternative is 'vector images'. These do not lose quality when they are re-sized. We have included specific vector image resources in this separate section.
- **Paid Royalty-Free Image Sources** – Sometimes free doesn't cut it so here is a list of royalty-free image sites you have to pay for.

Each section lists websites in alphabetical order.

Please note that the Internet is a dynamic place and websites come and go and get renamed. This guide is accurate at the time of going to press but you may find that some sources become no longer available.

And now a very important disclaimer...

DISCLAIMER: We provide these website links in good faith. However, we are in no way affiliated or otherwise connected with these sites and we have no control over the images they provide for download.

You must therefore do your own due diligence and satisfy yourself that any images you download and use from any of these websites are used in accordance with any restrictions that may apply.

We cannot be responsible or liable for any infringement you make of the rights in the images you use.

With that out of the way, let's dive in!

Public Domain Images

Public Domain refers to material that is 'publicly available' and not covered by intellectual property or copyright.

All Free Download

<http://www.all-free-download.com/>

This website has a whole host of different free resources, including images, photos, website templates, icons, footage, fonts and more.

You do need to be careful because users of the site identify the resources and there is no quick way to verify the permissible uses. For example, many of the resources will not be available for commercial use. So do your own due diligence before use.

All Our Stock

<http://allourstock.deviantart.com>

All Our Stock is a completely free stock website. All of the content is available 100% free, for both commercial and personal usage.

The website claims that it places no restrictions - you don't have to worry about whether it's royalty-free or not, or whether you need to attribute the creator, so long as you don't redistribute the original file.

Bing Images

<http://bing.com/images>

Bing has an option for finding public domain images. To access this setting go to Bing Images, enter your search term, then use the license menu to select public domain images.

Clker

<http://www.clker.com>

This is an excellent website with thousands of images, both vector and raster.

The great thing is that all images uploaded to the site are done so under what is called the 'creative commons CC0 public domain dedication'. This means they can be used for any purpose whatsoever, including commercial uses. And you do not even have to credit the author.

So you are free to download images from Clker.com to use on your website or blog, in your sales materials, in your videos or in any other way that takes your fancy.

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If you want to check out the full terms, you will find them here...

<http://www.clker.com/disclaimer.html>

Dreams Time

<http://www.dreamstime.com/free-photos>

Dreams Time has a similar look and feel to the paid Shutterstock, but includes a selection of free photos as well.

The site does ask for a free membership and there are some photos that require credits to download. However, but it does have a substantial section for free pictures.

Dreams Time has a great variety of images because it pulls from different sites such as Creative Commons.

The search is pretty accurate, but not very specific. It also has generic categories to choose from. If choosing just one animal or type of food seems like a lot to think about, you can browse through all of them.

Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com>

Flickr is a well-known resource, yet it is often neglected.

Using the advanced search feature, you can search only photos with a Creative Commons license that allows you to use the content commercially and/or modify, adapt, or build upon the content.

These two licenses in combination essentially make the image 'public domain' in that you can use it for anything. However, the license restriction is that you have to credit the original creator.

Flickr has a number of useful tools for finding public domain images...

Flickr Commons

<http://flickr.com/commons>

This is a great feature within Flickr. Institutes such as The Library Of Congress, Powerhouse Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Smithsonian Institution and various users can post and share images that have no known copyright restrictions.

British Library

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary>

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This is a huge collection of scans from the British Library of over 11,000,000 public domain pictures.

Compfight

<http://compfight.com>

Compfight is an image search engine tailored to efficiently locate images. It makes use of the Flickr API but isn't affiliated with Flickr.

Free Digital Photos

<http://www.freedigitalphotos.net>

Free Digital Photos offers both premium and free versions of its images for personal or commercial use.

Nearly every image is available for free download, but the images will cost you if you decide to ramp up the resolution and overall image quality.

The site offers a nice selection of browsing categories, from travel to architecture and options to filter search results by photos, illustrations or a specified image ID if you already know what you're looking for.

Free JPG

<http://www.freejpg.com.ar>

This website is in Spanish but it does have millions of what it claims are royalty-free images.

Free Range

<http://freerangestock.com/index.php>

This website has thousands of free high-resolution stock photos.

You have to register for a free membership in order to download images using Free Range, but it's quick and gives you access to a vast archive of quality images that can be used for both personal and commercial use.

There is a fair share of ads, but it makes sense since the photographers get paid when users click on the ads next to their submissions.

Gimp Savvy

<http://gimp-savvy.com/PHOTO-ARCHIVE>

The images and photos found in this archive come from three main sources: the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Each of these sites clearly state that their photos and images are in the public domain but check for any conditions for their use.

Google Images

<http://images.google.com>

Using Google Image search can be a great way to find lots of interesting pictures.

It used to be very time consuming to find what pictures you could use legally. Thankfully Google now has an option to search images by usage rights.

Under Search Tools and then Usage Rights are options to filter the search by pictures labelled for reuse, labelled for commercial reuse, labelled for reuse with modification and labelled for commercial reuse with modification.

Image After

<http://www.imageafter.com>

Image After describes itself as the raw base for your creativity. The public domain images provided on this site all underline the same terms of use, which basically are that you can use the images for anything, other than building a page that is in direct competition with Image After.

You can simply search images or use the thorough options, which allow you to sort an image category for example by size, then filter it by colour. You can also search based on image tags.

Liam's pictures from Old Books

<http://www.fromoldbooks.org>

This website offers a good collection of original pictures from old books that are no longer copyrighted and considered public domain. This is a great place to find obscure and unique pictures and illustration.

Microsoft Office free images and clipart

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images>

Like Google Images, this is another great source of thousands of royalty free pictures and even clipart that are available for all users.

Morgue File

<http://morguefile.com>

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All of the images on this website are completely free. However, check on whether there are restrictions on commercial use.

PD Photo

<http://pdphoto.org>

This is another great collection of thousands free public domain pictures. This site contains one of the best collections of travel pictures from around the world.

Photo Vaco

<http://www.photovaco.com>

Photo Vaco provides free stock photos, including vectors, with high resolution for both personal and commercial projects.

The website claims that you can “download, edit and use all photos anywhere and anyhow you like except for abuse”.

Picdrone

<http://www.picdrome.com>

This website holds several hundred photos in around a dozen different albums or categories.

Pixabay

<http://pixabay.com>

Pixabay was created to provide free images of high quality without having to worry about copyright issues or attribution requirements.

The site includes public domain pictures, free vectors, free drawings and free photos.

You can freely use any image from this website in digital and printed format, for personal and commercial use, without attribution requirement to the original author.

Place Kitten

<http://placekitten.com>

A slightly off-the-wall one here! This is the perfect website to find pictures of kittens for placeholders for websites.

Just plug in the website URL and the dimensions of the photo you want while you are coding and Place Kitten will set you up with an adorable and

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fuzzy friend to hang out on your screen. It also finally answers the question, can there be too many cats on the Internet?

Public Domain Photos

<http://www.public-domain-photos.com>

The 5,000 photos and 8,000 free pieces of clip art on this page can be used for any purpose, including commercial.

The photos are typically provided in a single high resolution. These public domain images are tagged and sorted into categories, offering you two ways to easily find them.

The site may be littered with ads and it may not be the most attractive design, but it offers a wealth of material.

Public Domain Pictures

<http://publicdomainpictures.net>

Users of this free website maintain it. They can upload and download images for free.

Some of these photos may have certain restrictions when used commercially.

There are only a few browsing categories to choose from, such as professional and seasonal, but the accompanying image tags make it easier to find what you're looking for using the built-in search bar.

Clicking on a photo will provide you with detailed information about the camera that was used, the artist, license, and other technical features.

If you're feeling generous, you can also pay for premium download or choose to donate a sum to the artist via PayPal.

RGB Stock

<http://www.rgbstock.com>

This site currently has more than 80,000 free high quality stock images.

Although none of the images are public domain, they can be used commercially within the terms of the image licence. This is similar to the terms on Stock.xchnng.

The site has some top rate photography and graphics, many in high resolution and you can begin downloading after a very simple free registration process.

Stock Free Images

<http://www.stockfreeimages.com>

Stock Free Images offers more than 900,000 images, royalty-free stock photos and illustrations.

There is a premium option for extra access features.

Stock Photos.io

<http://stockphotos.io>

StockPhotos.io is a high quality, high resolution public domain and Creative Commons licensed professional free stock photos sharing community with around 25,000 images.

All photos are allowed for commercial use as long as you give proper credits to the authors.

Stock Vault

<http://www.stockvault.net>

This website has more than 37,000 free copyright free photos for personal or non-commercial use. Check individual images for restrictions on commercial use.

You don't have to register to download photos. However a free member account gives you access to special features like adding photos to lightboxes for later use, commenting on photos and emailing photos with one click.

The site includes a clean design and simple navigation, but note that search results often include images from both Stock Vault and Shutterstock (which requires a fee).

Stock.XCHNG

<http://www.sxc.hu>

Getty Images recently acquired this website.

Stock.XCHNG presently contains almost 400,000 photos and many of them are royalty free with no further usage restrictions.

You can quickly view the restrictions in the availability field underneath the respective image. Some artists request to be notified or credited, others only require standard restrictions, which are defined by the Stock.XCHNG.

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To download material you have to sign up for free with Stock.XCHNG.

Unsplash

<http://unsplash.com>

Unsplash is not a typical stock photography website. It doesn't feature a search button or different categories to choose from. Rather, it is a Tumblr page with beautiful high-resolution photos submitted by different users.

Ten new photos are added every ten days and all can be downloaded.

Photos vary from animal close-ups to landscapes to portraits, but there isn't a way to search for specific images, so it is better for casual browsing and stockpiling photos for future use.

Wikimedia Commons

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Most images used on Wikipedia are part of the Wikimedia Commons, a database of more than 16 million freely usable media files, including public domain images.

Recently, for example, the Russian International News Agency has donated 100 historical photographs from their archives.

Media files can be surfed by topic, location, type, author, license, and source. Each of these categories has subcategories, to refine the search. You can also search files by tags.

The dedicated page for each piece of media gives details about the item, including the permission for use and any licenses associated with the file. For most media files you will find that the copyright has simply expired and it has thus moved to the public domain.

Most of the content is available and modifiable as long as you attribute the original author or licensor.

Wikipedia Public Domain Image Resources

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Public_domain_image_resources

If you are looking for very specific public domain images, you should check out the public domain image resources listed on Wikipedia. They feature historical images, as well as visual arts, logos, books and much more.

World Images

<http://worldart.sjsu.edu>

This comes from California State University and contains more than 60,000 images from around the world that can be used freely for non-profit and education use. Check individual images for commercial use.

US Government Public Domain Images

This is a huge resource so we have given it a section of its own.

Thousands of photos taken by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duty are free of copyright and free to use. Here are some of the best collections below...

Agricultural Research Service

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/graphics/photo>

Here you will find a few hundred high-resolution photos of plants, animals, agriculture and agricultural research.

Browse using the categories on the left of the screen.

The site displays a request form when you choose to download a high-resolution photo, but you can simply bypass it by clicking 'download photo'.

Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative

<http://armi.usgs.gov/gallery/index.php>

If you need amphibians, this is the place. There are a few hundred photos but, unfortunately, no large, high-resolution images are available.

Antarctic Photo Library

<http://photolibrary.usap.gov>

Here you will find several hundred photos of amazing Antarctic scenery, transport vehicles and scientists.

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov/multimedia>

There are thousands of photos of soldiers, vehicles and operations in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines.

Finding just the right photo is time-consuming because the search tends to return thousands of results. You can also browse by category by clicking 'search images by topic'. New photos are added regularly.

FEMA

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library>

Here, you will find thousands of photos of disasters, recovery, community relations, congressional relations and much more.

There are many search options, but the search engine is picky about keywords. If you search for 'fire' for example, you won't get a superset of the results from 'wildfire' or 'wild fire'. Try different search strings. There is no browse function available.

Florida Integrated Science Center

http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/Center_Publications/Image_Archive/image_archive.html

Here you will find a few hundred photos of Florida wildlife, alligators, Everglades and other coastal climates. They have great shots, but none are larger than a few inches.

Hive Stock

<http://www.hivestock.com>

Here you will find tens of thousands of high-resolution photos of landscapes, sunsets, mountains, flowers, science and much more.

You can browse or search.

You can get the highest resolution available for all the images quite easily. Photos are Creative Commons, which is not quite 'copyright free'. So check any restrictions on individual images before using.

NASA Image Exchange

<http://nix.nasa.gov>

Here there is a wide range of NASA photos including Earth, shuttles, jets and experiments. To get high-resolution, click "+ More Details" after performing a search. Unfortunately, high-resolution images are not available for many of the photos.

National Park Service

http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/imagebase.html

Here you will find thousands of photos of everything in the US national parks including scenery, plants, animals, wildfires, geo-thermal activity, park visitors, etc.

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The library is organised in helpful categories, but there is no search feature. Some photos are beautiful, but there are more than a few that are somewhat unimpressive.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

<http://images.nrel.gov>

Here you will find several thousand photos of laboratories, scientists at work, new-age dwellings and even Housing for Humanity construction projects.

The catch is that the site charges \$42.00 per high-resolution photo. This restriction is in place despite the fact that there is no copyright on these photos.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://digitalmedia.fws.gov>

Here there are thousands of photos of scenery, wildlife, people in the outdoors and more.

You enter search terms on the left of the screen.

Other US Government Sources

For more general searches of US government images, there is a fantastic site linking to other U.S. government sites here...

<http://www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Graphics.shtml>

You will find links to hundreds of thousands of free and public domain images. Categories include Air Force, forests, animals, Army, birds, coast guard, crops, fish, fire, fruits, geology, Indians, lab research, mammals, money, mountains, NASA, Navy, parks, plants, Presidents, space, storms, veggies, volcano's, war, wildlife and much more.

And in case these are not enough public domain photo libraries for you, you can find more links to Government photos on <http://USA.gov>.

However, not all the sites linked from that page contain truly public domain photos, so always read their guidelines for photo usage.

Public Domain Vector Art Images

There are times when working with vector images is what's called for. Unlike raster images, vector images can be blown up to any size without loss of quality. Raster (or Bitmap) images become jagged when made larger.

There are some media like Flash animation, print ads, clipart and logo art which lend themselves to the vector graphic format for its elastic nature.

It is also very easy to convert from vector to raster formats, but the same ease doesn't hold true vice-versa.

Creating detailed vector images takes patience and skill. Having a stock of readymade vector images is a shortcut.

All Silhouettes

<http://all-silhouettes.com>

All Silhouettes has a great collection of some 9,000 free silhouettes as symbols, shadows, objects etc.

You can explore the silhouette clipart from the categories mentioned on the right or use the tag cloud.

Brands of the World

<http://www.brandsoftheworld.com>

Brands of the World is a fairly niche resource for free vector formats of brand logos.

Most files are free but there is also a non-free section.

Clker

<http://www.clker.com>

See the reference in the Public Domain section. I have included the entry here as well because the site offers both raster and vector images.

Deviant Art

<http://www.deviantart.com>

This website has lots of free vectors. You can use the search bar or you can click on the Resources and Stock Images link.

Included are traditional art, digital art, stock images and more.

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Be careful because this site contains both royalty free and copyrighted works. Make sure you view the artists or photographers usage guidelines and rules before using any image.

Open Clip Art

<http://www.openclipart.org>

This is an open source clip art repository where artists make their work available for all uses including unlimited commercial use.

You can search the site or browse by collections, with a huge range of different subject matter.

Q Vectors

<http://qvectors.net>

Q Vectors is another neatly organised web resource for quality vector images. Each image or image pack gets its own page with information like a star rating, comments, a full preview and links to other 'Vectors You Might Like'. There is a lot of categories including Silhouettes which is really handy for presentations.

You can register on the site and upload and download vector files as a member. The site's blog also keeps you in the know of what's happening all around the site.

Vecteezy

<http://www.vecteezy.com>

Vecteezy is a community-based website that you can explore to see the work of other vector artists. All the graphics are free to download and free to use in your projects. But do check out the license first before you do so.

Free downloadable vector files include vector Icons, vector patterns, vector swirls, flourishes, backgrounds, wallpapers, Illustrator brushes, and many more.

Vectorish

<http://vectorish.com>

Like a lot of creative image sites, you can not only download free stock images but also submit your own. The vector images are very neatly laid out with each image pack's information and license type mentioned on the right. You can use the search box or jump to the categories provided.

Vector Madness

<http://www.vectormadness.com>

This website includes some 8,000 free vector images and free design resources for the vector artist. You can access the categories from the left-hand column.

Vector Portal

<http://www.vectorportal.com>

Vector Portal's tagline says "Everything vector, everything free". The website includes some uncommon types of vector images like Coat of Arms, Beams and Bursts, Sketches, Monochrome Vectors and more. You can also download complete sets or submit vector files of your own.

Paid Royalty-Free Image Sources

123RF

<http://www.123rf.com>

The 123RF website offers a royalty-free digital media library with a wide variety of budget-friendly commercial and editorial images, video footage, audio clips, logo designs and illustrations.

The site currently hosts more than 24 million assets to be used for any application from advertising campaigns to audio/visual montages.

Big Stock

<http://www.bigstockphoto.com>

Big Stock contains more than 17 million royalty-free photographs and illustrations available for almost any purpose.

Every Stock Photo

<http://www.everystockphoto.com>

Every Stock Photo is a search engine for royalty-free photos. These come from many sources and are license-specific. You can view a photo's license by clicking on the license icon, below and left of photos. Membership is free and allows you to rate, tag and collect photos.

Fotolia

<http://en.fotolia.com>

Fotolia is very keenly priced for stock images and it claims that it is devoted to offering affordable creative imagery. The site includes millions of royalty-free images, vectors, illustrations and video footage clips.

iStock

<http://www.istockphoto.com>

iStock offers a huge range of royalty-free stock images, media and design elements including vector illustrations, videos, music and sound effects.

Shutter Stock

<http://www.shutterstock.com>

Shutter Stock offers more than 30 million stock images, vectors and footage.