



Stock footage and public domain clips

Engaging online videos often **cut between different clips** at a rapid rate. It is not uncommon to be shown 10 or 15 different 'scenes' in one minute of video.

Instead of going out to film all the different clips you might need (many of which you might only use 2 or 3 seconds of), **you can use a public domain or stock footage resource.**

Public domain footage, or footage under permissive copyright licences like 'creative commons' can usually be used **for free** in clips that you create.

With royalty free stock footage you may pay once to get hold of the clips, but you do not have to pay royalties every time you use them.

Getting Started

- 1) **Think creatively** about the sort of clips you need. The exact image you have in mind may not be available, so you need to be flexible;
- 2) Go to one of the websites listed below and **search** on key words to help you find suitable clips;
- 3) **View** any possible clips. Pay attention to any copyright conditions or terms of use;
- 4) **Download** the clips that you think you can use;
- 5) **Make a note of the source** of any clips you download – you'll need to add this to your credits on your clip.
- 6) Import the clips into your editing software and **splice them into the mix**;
- 7) Make sure you **add credits** to the end of your film to acknowledge the creators of any clips you have used.



Five stock footage resources

1) The Internet Archive:

<http://www.archive.org/details/movies>

The Internet Archive host 100s of public domain and out-of-copyright films and clips for you to search, download and use.

2) US National Archives:

<http://video.google.com/nara.html>

Clips from the US Government and NASA, including lots of old newsreel footage.

3) VJVault.com

<http://www.vjvault.com>

VJ clip libraries are great places to find very short, often impressionistic, clips to use.

4) Blip.tv

<http://spinxpress.com/getmedia>

Blip.tv is a video sharing site which allows creative commons video to be shared. SpinXPress offers a search interface making it easier to find video content from blip.tv.

5) Flickr.com Creative Commons

<http://www.flickr.com>

In the advanced search options you can find creative commons videos and photos. Videos are in flash format, so you'll need a tool like TubeTV (mac) or AnyVideoConverter (PC) to download them.

Credits and Copyright

You should always pay careful attention to the copyright licence on content. And think carefully about the licence you will then have to use for your video. For example, if you use a clip that can only be used in non-commercial contexts, you'll have to apply a similar condition to your own video.