



# somerightsreserved

Volume 1, Issue 1

10th of January, 2010

## What Is Creative Commons?

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Creative commons is a non-profit corporation that wants to make sharing and building upon the ideas of others easier, consistent with the rules of copyright.

The founder of some rights reserved has created a non profit organisation which works upon and promotes the policy of creative commons, anybody is able to use the materials on his website without consulting him, but they must say that it was not their original idea that they used or built on the idea of someone else. Some rights reserved also provide music, images and teaching material for

anyone one to wishes to use it.



The Creative Commons logo

"He, who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine receives light without darkening me."

Thomas Jefferson

Creative commons is different from copyright

because Creative commons allows anyone to use what they want without having to contact the person who produced it as long as credit is given to the creator, whereas copyright means you require permission from the creator of what you use, and if you use their product without permission you can be asked to pay a fine. Unsigned musicians can do this in order to get exposure that they would otherwise struggle to find.

To find out more , visit the Some Rights Reserved website ([somerights.org.uk](http://somerights.org.uk)) or [creativecommons.org](http://creativecommons.org)

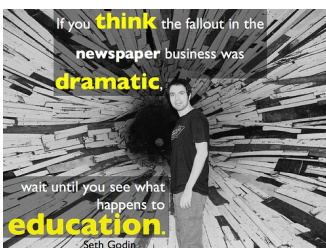
## Education: Open-Of-Course

Attempts to educate and evangelise to people about the benefits of free software are often frustrated by the common perception that free software is made 'by geeks, for geeks' and is therefore of limited interest to a less 'technical' audience.

The Free Culture movement, Wikipedia, and, to a certain extent the Creative Commons (along with applications such as flickr that integrate their licenses) have helped dispel this

myth, applying the principles of freedom that originated in Free Software to a wider variety of content, beginning an influx of these values into a wider cross-section of society. Open-Of-Course is another project that attempts to do the same thing, this time providing a repository for freely licensed and collaboratively produced learning materials for a variety of disciplines.

Unlike initiatives such as MIT's Open Courseware project, Open-Of-Course intends to provide teaching and information for practical subjects and activities, rather than theoretical and academic disciplines. By providing courses in diverse, yet immediately relevant disciplines, Open-Of-Course showcases the possibilities that free licensing offers for education.



# Sita Sings The Blues

Hindu Goddess as Betty Boop? It's Personal

What do a 3,000-year-old Sanskrit epic, a '20s-era jazz singer and Indonesian shadow puppets have in common? They're all part of the eclectic cultural tapestry that is 'Sita Sings the Blues', an 82-minute animated feature that combines autobiography with a retelling of the classic Indian myth the Ramayana, and that required its creator, the syndicated comic-strip artist Nina Paley, to spend three years transforming herself into a one-woman moving-picture studio. It's hard to imagine how Ms. Paley, 40, could have farmed out the writing, directing, editing, producing and animating of 'Sita Sings the Blues.' As engaging as the film is, explaining it is tricky: along with traditional 2-D animation there are cut-outs, collages, photographs and scenes with hand-painted watercolours as the backdrop. At certain points Ms. Paley mixes laughs with exposition by having three flat silhouette characters dispute the details of the Ramayana's tragic saga of the Hindu goddess Sita, who is exiled by her husband, Rama, who fears she has been unfaithful after she is abducted by a demon king.

At other points Ms. Paley weaves in the story of her own collapsing marriage, and the time switches from ancient India to present-day San Francisco and Manhattan, the images hand-drawn and jittery. In between everything else are flash-animation musi-

cal numbers featuring Sita in voluptuous Betty Boop-like form almond-shaped head, saucer eyes and swaying hips accompanied by the warbling voice of a real-life flapper-era singer named Annette Hanshaw.

For fans of 'Sita Sings the Blues' Ms. Paley's imaginative leaps and blend of styles are part and parcel of the film's visual and aural originality. "You can actually feel how much time went into it," said Alison Dickey, a film producer and one of the jurors who nominated Ms. Paley for Film Independent's Someone to Watch honour, to be announced at the Spirit Awards next Saturday. "We see so many films, and when you come across one like this, you just feel like you've stumbled upon a gem."

In 2002 Ms. Paley followed her husband, an animator, from their home in San Francisco to a town in western India. It was there that she first learned of the tale of the Ramayana. When she reached the part when Sita kills herself to prove her fidelity, she said, she thought, "That's just messed up and wrong."

An idea for a post feminist comic strip began brewing. In it her new ending would still have Rama rejecting Sita, but instead of committing suicide she would become empowered. She says, 'To hell with you. I'm going to go join a farming collective.'

Before Ms. Paley could commit her I-will-survive strip to paper, though, life intervened. While she was on a business trip to New York, her husband sent her an e-mail message telling her not to return. In a state of "grief, agony and shock," she remained in Manhattan.

One of her hosts, a collector of vintage records, played Annette Hanshaw's shiny rendition of Fred E. Ahlert and Roy Turk's bluesy lament "Mean to

Me." "A friend of mine joked, 'That's your theme song,' Ms. Paley said. And while 'Mean to Me' and Rama's rejection of Sita made sense together, she didn't have the money or the emotional energy to envision more than a short film.



That film, 'Trial by Fire,' was so successful on the festival circuit that Ms. Paley kept expanding the project, using successive chapters of the Ramayana and Ms. Hanshaw's songs as Sita's sung narrative. "It sounds dumb, but the movie wanted to be made, she said. There was this music and this story. It was like: 'Someone's got to make this movie. I guess it's going to be me.'

When Ms. Paley recounted this, it was back in November and she was sitting in the dining room of a friend's house in Oakland. That evening 'Sita Sings the Blues' would open the San Francisco International Animation Festival. (It also opened the Museum of Modern Art's annual series Best Film Not Playing at a Theatre Near You in New York that month and went on to win a Gotham Award.)

After the final credits rolled, the gangly, curly-haired Ms. Paley bounded onstage and announced, 'You've all just participated in an illegal act.' Though Ms. Hanshaw's recordings are not protected by federal copyright, those who own the rights to the songs themselves charge tens of thousands of dollars that Ms. Paley does not have to use them which is also more than independent distributors have offered for a theatrical release.



Poster for 'Sita Sings The Blues'

'You've all just participated in an illegal act.'



## 'Free Me'

DVD About Free Culture and Free Software

A DVD that comes with lots of great examples of Free Culture which plays in your DVD player, with even more examples when you put it in your computer – including a GNU/Linux Live CD. The idea is simple: help to get the word out about Free Culture, including Free Software, by showing off what's already been achieved.

Through the first few months of this year I'd been doing a lot of reading, mostly of books and essays like *Free Software*, *Free Society* by RMS and *Free Culture* by Lawrence Lessig: I was so inspired by these texts, and so concerned about some of the issues they presented, I wanted to let my MP know about them. Initially I was just going to forward him a copy of the texts, as is permitted by their licenses, but then I remembered a campaign I'd heard about quite a while ago called "iPods for Senators" where they'd sent iPods full of less restrictively licensed material (i.e. Creative Commons, Public Domain etc) to help raise awareness of the issues surrounding digital technology and copyright law.

I knew I didn't have the money to send out iPods but I thought I could put together a DVD, which would even allow me to include a GNU/

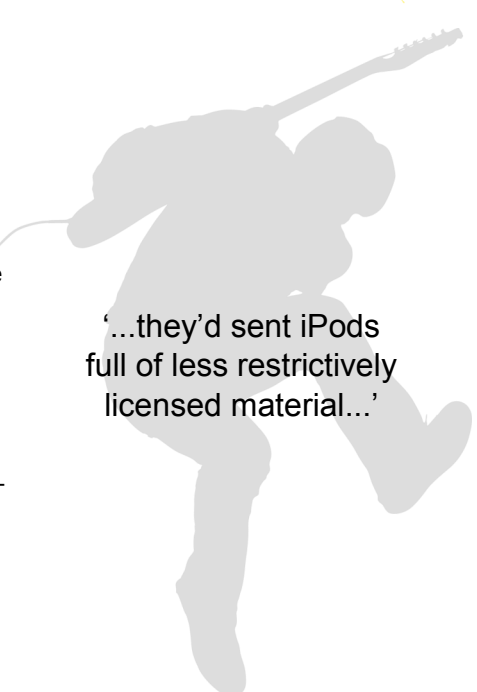
Linux Live CD! This is exactly what I've done. The DVD has a range of video content – including movies like *Elephants Dream* and the animated short *Trusted Computing* – which will play in your DVD player; a whole load of Creative Commons licensed music and photos which you can enjoy from your computer; books that are now in the public domain (including some real classics) and books which are released under some sort of permissive license, i.e. Verbatim or CC; the icing on the cake, in my opinion, is the inclusion of Knoppix with all of the media on the desktop for you to enjoy!

I plan to send this disc out to M.P.s, relevant journalists and friends at university; hopefully the content will be varied and interesting enough to grab their attention and lead them on to find out more about Free Culture. Thanks to Benjamin Stephan and Christopher Haag from Laffon (Trusted Computing animation) the packaging will be so attractive it will grab people's attention before they've even put the disc in the drive!

The DVD is now available for free download from The Internet Archive. The target audience is obviously people new to the idea of Free Cul-

ture, but who are likely from a wide range of backgrounds (as shown by M.P.s, journalists and students!). The range of the content on the site already reflects the topics I'd like it to cover but I believe it needs editing and refining, probably more links adding etc.

I'm aware that in the EU we're pretty well off with respect to copyright and patent laws, certainly compared the USA, but I'd like to help keep it that way! Even here in Europe people are being sued for file sharing; neither are we safe from the threat of software patents (yes, that subject has come up again in the EU) so I feel these issues are definitely just as important here; I will be including a cover letter with the disc to M.P.s and journalists to explain how these issues apply to us. I'd also like to encourage more people to get involved with Free Culture, or even just raise people's awareness of the subject, and I hope that this disc might have some success with this.



'...they'd sent iPods full of less restrictively licensed material...'



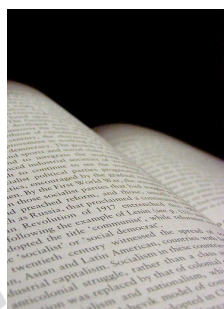
## Online Text Books Lighten Students Load

Because many textbooks are becoming available for download online, there's very little need to own the expensive, behemoth, hard-bound textbooks anymore – subsequently, reducing the need to schlep them around.

A company called Connexions takes this approach many steps farther by not only publishing free textbooks, but also by allowing students and teachers to rewrite and edit material "as

long as the originator is credited."

A New York Times article likened textbook publishers to drug makers in the way that they offer incentives for professors to keep pushing for the print versions, which can cost upwards of US\$ 200.



However, in the spirit of moral decision making, or, perhaps, because of an advanced understanding of web publishing, some professors are choosing to make their textbooks available online, either for free or through print-on-demand shops like Lulu or Flat World Knowledge.

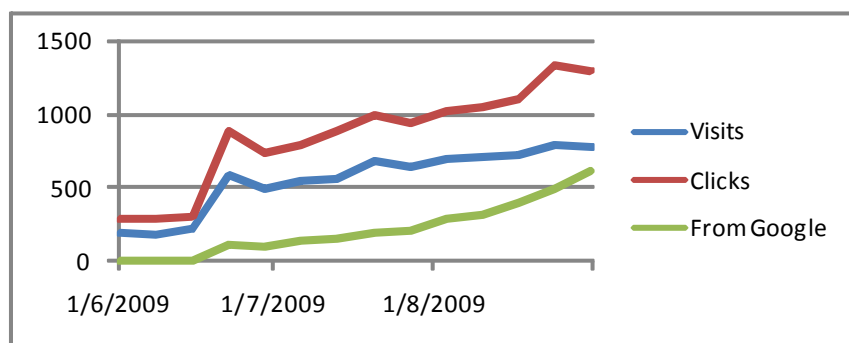
In response to these open source savvy sites, textbook publishers have launched their own

site called 'CourseSmart'. Owned collectively by five publishers, the site allows students to subscribe to a textbook and read it online, with the ability to highlight and print as needed. Though there's a subscription fee, it is half the traditional textbook price – approximately US\$ 90 per book. Sounds like a good way for both the backpack and the wallet to be lighter.



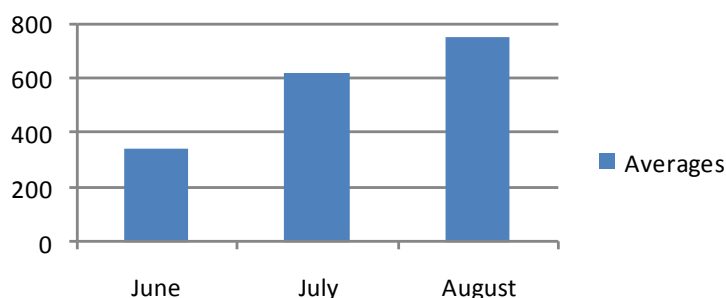
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# The Rise and Rise...



This shows that at the start the website was getting very few visits because it hadn't fully released it yet, the only people visiting the website were teachers. This graph also shows that somerightsreserved is starting to get more visits each month, most of which are from Google, this shows that the money we are spending on advertising is well spent.

## Averages



This confirms that visits are going up over time.

Key	
Standard donation	Value
A	£ 1.00
B	£ 5.00
C	£ 10.00
D	£ 20.00
E	£ 50.00

If you would like to donate to **somerightsreserved**, simply text one of the letters in the table according to the amount you would like to donate to **833442**. Thank You