GHGA Licence Policy

Document Properties / Angaben zum Dokument			
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Contents

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to set out the licence by which outputs, materials, or other items produced and shared by the GHGA Consortium, in the context of their work within the GHGA Project, may be reused by external parties.

The GHGA Consortium utilises version 4.0 of the Creative Commons copyright unless otherwise stated[1]. In particular, CC BY licenses are used to promote openness and collaboration by allowing others to freely use, modify, and share content whilst ensuring that the GHGA Consortium, as the original creator, receives proper credit for the items it has developed. However, in certain cases, the GHGA Consortium utilises NC (Non-Commercial) and ND (No Derivatives) licences to restrict commercial use or modifications, as explained below.

Public-facing items produced by the GHGA Consortium should be labelled with the appropriate licence icon.

2. Objectives

The GHGA Consortium wants to ensure that the materials it produces are available such that they can be re-used by the wider research community. This sharing is also expected as the work of the GHGA Consortium is publicly-funded. As such, the licence used must enable the materials to be shared as easily as possible.

At the same time, the GHGA Consortium wishes to make sure that its contribution to the production of publicly-available materials is appropriately recognised.

3. Licences

This policy applies to the following categories of items:

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[1] https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/
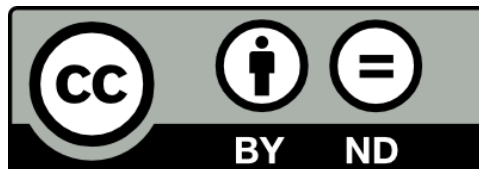
a. Branding

Definition

The GHGA logo, representing the German Human Genome-phenome Archive in all formats and colours.

Example:

Licence

CC BY-ND

a. Creative Commons Description

'This license enables reusers to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.'[2]

b. Usage Instructions

Materials within the Branding category should not be adapted nor should derivates be created; this is to ensure that the GHGA brand is not altered or otherwise misrepresented.

c. Guidance on the Usage of the GHGA Logo

The GHGA logo is available in PNG format via ghga.de/downloads. EPS formats can be made available upon request. The GHGA logo must not be altered, extended, imitated, or falsified in terms of its content, colour, or graphical design.

The GHGA logo is available in two forms. When displayed larger than 10mm, the logo version that includes the full name, "The German Human Genome-Phenome Archive," should be used. The logo should always be surrounded by a clear space equal to at least 50% of the logo's height to maintain its clear visibility and impact.

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[2] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/

The primary colour of the GHGA logo is orange. In order to maintain visual integrity, the logo may also be used in white or black when placed on colourful or complex backgrounds, thereby ensuring sufficient contrast for readability.
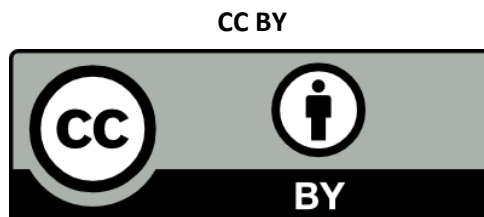
b. Community Tools

Definition

Tools which have been developed by the GHGA Consortium for the purpose of being used by the wider research community.

Example:

[Consent Modules for Data Sharing via the German Human Genome-Phenome Archive (GHGA)](#)

Licence

CC BY

a. Creative Commons Description

'This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator.'[3]

b. Usage Instructions

Materials within the Community-tools category have been made available free-of-charge to the research community by the GHGA Consortium.

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[3] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

c. Documentation

Definition

Information and guidance for users relating to the work of GHGA that is made publicly available by the GHGA Consortium. This also includes legal documents such as the GHGA Data Processing Contract or data protection and/or information security documents.

Example:

GHGA User Documentation

Licence

CC BY

a. Creative Commons Description
'This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator.'[4]

b. Usage Instructions

Materials within the Documentation category have been made available free-of-charge to the research community by the GHGA Consortium.

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[4] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

d. Non-personal Metadata

Definition

Metadata that is listed on the GHGA Data Portal and is used to support the findability of the Research Data to which it applies. This also includes the GHGA Metadata Model and associated documents that define which data are to be collected.

Example:

Licence

CC BY

a. Creative Commons Description

'This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator.'[5]

b. Usage Instructions

Materials within the Non-personal Metadata category have been made available free-of-charge to the research community by the GHGA Consortium.
c. Ontologies

The GHGA Metadata Model incorporates a number of ontologies created by other projects or organisations. The licences for these ontologies are as follows:

Ontology	Link to Ontology	Licence
Biolink	https://github.com/biolink/biolink-model	CC0 1.0[6]
BTO	https://github.com/BRENDA-Enzymes/BTO	CC BY 4.0
DUO	https://github.com/EBISPOT/DUO	CC BY 4.0
EDAM	https://github.com/edamontology/edamontology	CC BY-SA 4.0[7]
EFO	https://github.com/EBISPOT/efo	Apache 2.0
GENEPIO	https://github.com/GenEpiO/genepio/	CC BY 3.0
GSSO	https://github.com/Superraptor/GSSO	Apache 2.0
HANCESTRO	https://github.com/ebispot/hancestro/	CC BY 4.0
HP-International	https://github.com/obophenotype/human-phenotype-ontology/	HPO
ICD10	https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en	Depends on the Data Submitter
NCIT	https://github.com/NCI-Thesaurus/thesaurus-obo-edition	CC BY 4.0
SIO	https://github.com/MaastrichtU-IDS/semanticscience	CC BY 4.0

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[6] CC0: The person who associated a work with this deed has dedicated the work to the public domain by waiving all of his or her rights to the work worldwide under copyright law, including all related and neighboring rights, to the extent allowed by law. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/

[7] CC BY-SA: This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator. The license allows for commercial use. If you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you must license the modified material under identical terms. https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

e. Outreach Materials

Definition

This includes recordings from events (talks, etc) hosted by the GHGA Consortium, podcasts produced by the GHGA Consortium (Der Codes des Lebens, Genomhäppchen, etc), images (photographs of materials, events, etc), brochures or other similar materials that describe the work of the GHGA Consortium.

Examples:

GHGA Podcast: The Code of Life

GHGA Brochure 2023

Data Portal Factsheet

Licence

Usually **CC BY-NC**

Standard

Non-standard

a. Creative Commons Description

'This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator.'[8]

b. Usage Instructions

Materials within the Outreach category have been made available free-of-charge to the research community by the GHGA Consortium.

c. Exceptions

In certain cases, exceptions to the standard CC BY licensing can be made.

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[8] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

The GHGA Consortium uses the CC BY-NC-ND licence in specific cases. Such cases include when partners with whom the GHGA Consortium collaborates require more restrictive licensing, such as for certain podcast episodes, or when an Outreach product, for example the GHGA Brochure, is closely tied to branding and therefore must not allow derivatives.

f. Software

Definition

Software, code, or any related documentation that has been developed by the GHGA Consortium as part of GHGA's software stack.

Example:

[ghga-de/ghga-service-chassis-lib: A library that contains the basic chassis functionality used in services of GHGA](#)

Licence

Apache 2.0 Licence

a. Apache License Description

[Apache License, Version 2.0](#)

b. Usage Instructions

The Apache 2.0 Licence enables the free use and permits the modification of items in the software category that have been produced by the GHGA Consortium. Information relating to copyrights, patents, trademarks, and attribution must remain in files which are shared under the Apache 2.0 Licence.

The Apache 2.0 Licence is not a copyleft licence and so derived works do not need to distributed under the same licence. However, the Apache 2.0 Licence remains in place on unmodified parts. Any copyright, patent information, trademarks, or attribution notices must be preserved unless they do not apply to any parts of a derived software item.
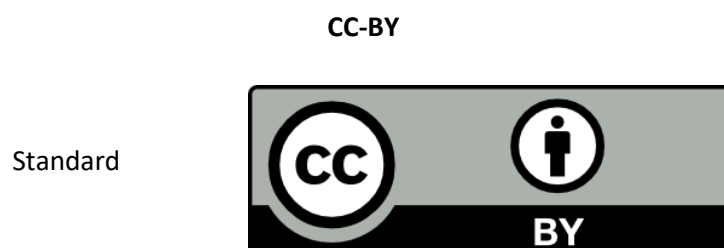
g. Training Materials

Definition

Materials which have been produced by the GHGA Consortium for the purposes of sharing expertise with the wider research community. This may include documents, slides, scripts, or recordings.

Example:

[GHGA Webinar Series: Sequencing Techniques and Analysis](#)

Licence

CC-BY

Standard

a. Creative Commons Description

'This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator.'[9]

b. Usage Instruction

Materials within the Training Materials have been made available free-of-charge to the research community by the GHGA Consortium.

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[9] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

h. Research Data and Personal Metadata

Definition

The GHGA Consortium archives Research Data and Personal Metadata on behalf of Data Controllers. The GHGA Consortium takes no decisions on how the Research Data and Personal Metadata can be used, or who may access it. Persons wishing to use the Research Data or Personal Metadata must agree a licence to do so with the Data Controller.
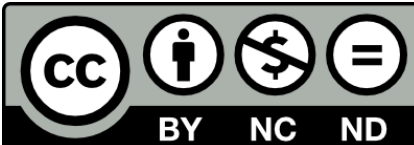
Licence

Set by the Data Controller

a. Usage Instruction

The usage of the Research Data and Personal Metadata is negotiated between the Data Controller and persons wishing to use the data. The Data Controller is free to define the licence terms as they wish.

4. Summary

Category of Items	Licence	Licence Icon
Branding	CC BY-NC-ND	
Community Tools	CC BY	
Documentation	CC BY	
Non-personal Metadata	CC BY	
Outreach Materials	CC BY	
	CC BY-NC-ND	
Software	Apache 2.0 Licence	
Training Materials	CC BY-NC	