

'Wikimedia in copyright / Copyright in Wikimedia'

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The Wikimedia Foundation's projects are some of the largest collaborative endeavours ever undertaken and have become enormously popular due to their content - most especially Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, and Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository. Along the way they have become standard bearers for the free-culture movement and are beginning to affect copyright law itself both in theory and in practice. This presentation will discuss four examples of how the projects interact with copyright in unforeseen ways:

- 1) How the Wikimedia Commons community reconciles variations between many national law codes to create a single repository of public domain content;
- 2) How the phrase "or any later version", and some serious behind-the-scenes and community wrangling, is allowing Wikipedia to make the unprecedented step of switching from one 'viral license' (GNU Free Documentation License) to another (Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike);
- 3) How the theory of derivative works is underpinned by the practical requirement for database dumps; and
- 4) Why a dedicatedly non-commercial organisation refuses to accept 'non-commercial' licensed content.