

# INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome. Thanks a lot for your purchase!

I want to start this guide by letting you know what the phrase “public domain”, means at least the one related to intellectual property items like books, texts, images, audio and more.

To make things easy, even if public domain is never simple, the public domain includes all the works no longer protected by copyright laws. So you are free to use them anyway you wish, including for commercial purposes, in multiple ways that we will analyze later.

Public domain gives you access to an almost unlimited quantity of works, sometimes excellent, that you can use to your own advantage by modifying it or by using it as is.

If you are ready to start this travel in the world of public domain, I will guide you into this world.

Thanks a lot and see you soon,

**Alessandro Zamboni**

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# **CHAPTER 1**

## **WHAT IS PUBLIC DOMAIN?**

We are surrounded by public domain every day, in everything we do. In fact, anything that can be used by the public is in effect of the public domain.

Think about a soccer stadium, for example. Everyone can use it and access it, with no legal recriminations, because it is a public domain property. But the stadium is owned by your city, or by the soccer team, for giving a benefit to who wants to see soccer matches. So it is in the public domain, like woods, mountains, rivers and so on.

But if you think of public domain for internet marketing, it is totally different, because here we need to sell, not just use for ourselves like the stadium.

For marketers like you and me, public domain work refers to intellectual property rights. For this reason, in this guide I want to talk to you about classic public domain materials for marketers, like books, reports, photos, clip-art, audio and music, movies and more. All useful things for your business.

In fact on the world wide web you can find an almost unlimited source of these creative materials, all in the public domain and ready to be used for personal or commercial purposes, without anything to pay on your side.

And my aim in this guide is to show you a lot of creative and cool ways to turn public domain materials into cash.

But before starting, it's fundamental to see how public domain materials can be used, otherwise you risk breaking the law if you use them in the wrong way, or if the item you decided to choose is not in the public domain.

Let me explain...

Almost all of the most important creative contents created by authors or creators are protected by law with copyright, the unique legal right they have to show the materials are their own.

No one else, apart from the original creators, can use their materials, in any way, unless they get a written and signed authorization document from the author or creator. Otherwise you are at risk of prosecution by law.

You are no longer required to pay for registering your copyright, as all the materials you create on your own are automatically protected by copyright by law. So if you can't see any message about copyright or the © sign, that doesn't mean the material is free to use and sell.

This is the law still working in the USA from 1989.

Anyway, and this is our case, there are some other rules that pertain to the world of public domain, making content available for free, and even for commercial use. If you follow this rule, no one can stop you.

For “public domain materials” the copyright laws are defined in the same country where the materials have been created. That means a public domain book can be public domain in USA, but not in Italy. So you have to pay attention to this factor, even if the growth of the internet in the last few years has made these legal things a little more “soft”.

In fact, all the materials released in the US, for example, are accessible for free all over the world, also in Italy, United Kingdom, Australia and Japan.

So how can you work with public domain works if you live outside US? Or you live in Spain and you want to launch a product based on public domain in your country? There's a simple rule.

Remember always to follow the copyright rules of the jurisdiction where the materials have been created. So you will never get problems.

Luckily for you, most of the public domain content available online are right from the US, so there are no problem if you want to sell them in the same country.

If we look at USA rules for what is copyrighted, they are pretty difficult to understand.

To make it easy for you, intellectual property which is no longer protected by copyright can fit into one of these groups:

- Anything published in the US before 1923 is not protected by copyright, so it is public domain.
- Anything published in the US between 1923 and 1963 with copyright notice is in public domain if copyright has not been renewed.

- Anything published in the US between 1923 and 1977 without any copyright notice is in public domain.
- Anything published between 1978 and 1989 (up to 1st March only) is considered public domain if there is no copyright notice or registration in the previous five years.
- Anything produced by Government officials and employees during their duties.

Even if public domain content is not recent, it's really valuable and you can use it to your own advantage, as we will see.

Think about movies, for example. Back in 2013, 4 Oscar nominations came from public domain and were about these three movies: Anna Karenina, Les Misérables and Grimm's Fairy Stories. This is a clear signal that there is a lot of money to be made in the world of public domain.

If you want another example, Dover Press sells image books with a CD inside. All their images come from public domain, and they are famous all over the world, apart from having built a big company.

## CHAPTER 2

### WHERE TO FIND PUBLIC DOMAIN WORKS

Public domain, at least in the USA, is very easy to be found and there's a huge selection available for you.

**!! REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CHECK TERMS FOR EACH SITE AND TO DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE BEFORE USING IMAGES, TEXTS, VIDEOS, MOVIES AND MORE. CONSIDER A GOOD METHOD TO LIST THE PLACES WHERE YOU TOOK MATERIALS FROM IN A PAGE OF YOUR BOOK, OR ON YOUR FINAL JOB.**

#### Ebooks / Audiobooks

##### **Project Gutenberg**

<https://www.gutenberg.org>

This is probably the most famous public domain website, with a catalogue of over 54,000 books you can download in multiple file formats. Updated constantly.

##### **Europeana**

<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>

A wonderful site that collects millions of items digitized by libraries, museums and archives. When you check books

and maps, be sure to use only the ones with “Public Domain Marked” in the right column, as the site hosts also normal files with the copyright still active.

## **Open Library**

<http://openlibrary.org>

This site was born by Internet Archive, to create a page for every book published, and I really love how it has been created. It lists over a million of books, of which most of the titles are public domain. Last but not least, you can borrow books!

## **Archive.org**

<https://archive.org>

This is one of the biggest file repositorys you can find online, with 5,000,000 books in over 180 languages. Included in their collections there are American libraries, Canadian libraries, the Library of Congress, and much, much more. But it's not only books. Give it a good look (you will also find this in the movies section!) Remember also to check the licence type of the book before you download.

## **Wikipedia Public Domain Resources**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Public\\_domain\\_resources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Public_domain_resources)



This is a total list of all the public domain resources listed on Wikipedia, and there are some gems to be discovered.

### **Classic Reader**

<http://www.classicreader.com>

This website offers a lot of short stories in the public domain and ebooks for young readers and from famous authors. All in the public domain too.

### **Loyal Books**

<http://www.loyalbooks.com>

This site offers more than 7,000 audiobooks and ebooks from public domain. A never-ending source of content and information in a lot of languages, apart from English.

### **Legamus**

<https://legamus.eu/blog/>

This site records a few audiobooks from public domain and offer them for free to their public. Interesting choice.

### **LibriVox**

<https://librivox.org>

Another audiobook site with a good number of available choices in the public domain.

## **Comics**

### **Comic Book Plus**

<http://comicbookplus.com>

This is one of my favorite places to find comics of every type, including the Charlie Chan stories that my grandfather loved so much (and me too!) Apart from this, you can find color and black and white comic books, comic strips and fanzines ready to be downloaded.

### **Digital Comic Museum**

<https://digitalcomicmuseum.com>

This is the second site in order of interest for public domain comics, with a huge selection of titles for you.

## **Movies**

!! To download movies from websites that don't have download button, use this tool: <http://www.clipconverter.cc/>

### **Archive.org Movies**

[https://archive.org/details/feature\\_films&tab=collection](https://archive.org/details/feature_films&tab=collection)

Over 5,200 movies ready to be downloaded in different file formats, including famous actors of the past. Can be

downloaded also in good quality, with the Mpeg-2 4Gb version.

## **Public Domain Movies**

<http://publicdomainmovies.net>

Another good selection of public domain movies.

## **OpenFlix**

<http://www.openflix.com>

This website offers only a few movies, but all in the public domain.

## **Public Domain Torrents**

<http://www.publicdomaintorrents.info>

A good selection of PD movies are available on this site, for watching and for downloading.

## **PublicDomainFlix**

<http://publicdomainflix.com>

This is the next in line for searching and downloading public domain movies.

## **Public Domain Movies - Almost Complete List in PDF**

<http://www.fesfilms.com/public-domain/FFPDCatalog.pdf>

This is the best document I ever got about PD movies in the United States. A humongous list! Remember always to

double check if a title is in effect in the public domain.

## **Public Domain Movies in USA | IMDB**

<http://www.imdb.com/list/ls003915205/>

This is a list of 300 public domain movies you can find anywhere to download them or stream them.

## **Music**

### **FreePD**

<https://freepd.com>

Over 770 MP3 files with all types of music collected for you by the author, and all in the public domain. If you want to have the entire database on 3 discs, you can pay \$14 to help the author do a better job.

### **MusOpen**

<https://musopen.org>

This is a database of classical music in the public domain, with popular composers like Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and many more, ready to be downloaded. Check the license, because a few files can't be used for commercial purposes.

### **Open Music Archive**

<http://www.openmusicarchive.org>

This is a site that offers a vast selection of public domain music, but for the UK market. So do your research before using them for free in the US or other countries as well.

## **SoundCloud**

<https://soundcloud.com/search/sounds?q=>

SoundCloud has a powerful search feature that allows you to search for your favorite music. Just click on “Tracks” and then be sure to select “To use commercially” where you see “To listen to”.

## **DL-Sounds**

<https://www.dl-sounds.com>

A good selection of public domain music for all your projects, including commercial ones. Requires free signup to access all databases of free music.

## **Images / Clip-Arts**

## **Pixabay**

<http://pixabay.com>

This is probably the most known public domain site for photos, illustrations and vector files, with over 1,200,000 of different choices for you, including high quality shots.

## **Public Domain Archive**

<http://publicdomainarchive.com>

This site adds new public domain images every week, and has a great database of recent photos for your projects. A great choice.

## **The Public Domain Review**

<http://publicdomainreview.org>

This website offers around one hundred ancient photo collections. Pay attention to click on “Rights” and select your favorite one, or check each photo collection. On site you can find also a selection of old books and movies.

## **Internet Archive Flickr Database**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages>

A humongous collection of 15 million illustrations and photos from The Internet Archive, taken from around 2 million public domain books and volumes.

## **Project Gutenberg Images Database**

Go to Google Images and insert this phrase:

site:gutenberg.org butterfly

Where butterfly can be changed to any niche you are interested in.

## **Public Domain Pictures**

<http://www.publicdomainpictures.net>

This site offers a good quantity of public domain photos to download and use, but you are allowed to download them at a good size, like 1920 pixel in width, while for bigger sizes they ask payments.

## **My Public Domain Pictures**

<http://www.mypublicdomainpictures.com>

Not one of the best around for organization, but if you take the time to go through the 98 pages of photos, you will find some interesting photo packages to use the way you like. It also includes art photos.

## **Pond5 Free Section**

<https://www.pond5.com/free>

This is a fantastic site for old-time public domain photography. Check every image rights to be sure you can use them everywhere with public domain rights.

## **UnSplash**

<http://unsplash.com>

Famous website that collects the photos donated by photographers to public domain. There's a huge selection of photos, with some of the best nature ones.

## **New Old Stock**

<http://nos.twinsnd.co>

This is a huge collection of geographical public domain photos. This site searches for them all around the world and adds them to the site with information on where the photo has been taken. Very useful and unique.

## **PDPics**

<http://pdpics.com>

This website offers a repository of public domain photos.

## **1 Million Free Photos**

<http://www.1millionfreepictures.com>

This website has a lot of photos you will never find in other places, because they are all from the site author. You can download them one by one, or with a mass downloader that will cost a bit of money (always consider that people are offering all their photos asking for nothing in return!)

## **Jay Mantri**

<http://jaymantri.com>

This is another personal photo site, that follows the same method of Unsplash, but giving you access to the photos Jay shoots around the world. There are some stunning photos here.



## **Wikimedia Commons: Public Domain Area**

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Public\\_domain](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Public_domain)

This is the public domain area. You won't find great gems in this section, but if you are searching for some countries history, this must be your first place.

## **Flickr - The Commons**

<https://www.flickr.com/commons>

This part of Flickr shares some historic photos, and they carry out incredible research to bring you treasures like the ones you will see there. All in the public domain, but pay attention to search just in the "Commons" area.

## **Flickr - The Commons Participants**

<https://www.flickr.com/commons/usage/>

Here you can find the total list of participants in "The Commons" program launched by Flickr.

## **Old Book Illustrations**

<https://www.oldbookillustrations.com>

This site is different from anything else. Here you will find all the public domain photos coming from books that pertain to public domain. Always read the terms page before downloading and using their images.

## **The Library of Congress**

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/library\\_of\\_congress/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/)

With over 20,000 images, this Flickr profile should be among your favorites. Full of newspaper covers and posters, very well collected.

## **The British Library**

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

The British Library released over 1 million scanned pages from 17th to 19th century books, all available on Flickr under public domain. Good for designers or for lovers of ancient drawings.

## **The U.S. National Archives**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usnationalarchives/>

Established in 1934 by President Roosevelt, these archives of over 12,000 photos will bring you the history of the United States. What I liked the most is the World War II section.

## **New York Public Library**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nypl/>

This is a wonderful set of photos about New York's history, with 30 well organized folders. Check the Dodge and Chrysler models, they are wonderful. And don't miss The Statue of Liberty section!

## **The National Archives UK**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalarchives/>

This is the United Kingdom account on Flickr, with over 20,000 photos from history, not only about the UK but also about their other confederate countries all over the world. Check the Artwork section, it's something stunning.

## **National Library of Ireland**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nlireland/>

This Flickr profile has around 1,300 photos of Ireland's history. Always check the license on each image.

## **State Library of Queensland**

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Images\\_from\\_the\\_State\\_Library\\_of\\_Queensland](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Images_from_the_State_Library_of_Queensland)

This is an incredibly rich collection of photos about the history of Australia, with actually more than 55,000 photos collected. Absolutely incredible to check.

## **Library Company of Philadelphia**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/library-company-of-philadelphia/>

Philadelphia's Library Company offers a fantastic view on American history through the images of 17th, 18th and 19th century. A lot of these images are about the Civil

War. But remember, use only the photos with the text “No Copyright Limitation”.

### **UBC Library Digitization Service**

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/ubclibrary\\_digicentre/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ubclibrary_digicentre/)

As with the other libraries, always check images rights before downloading them. There's a selection of maps, World War I photos, manuscripts covers and business cards.

### **National Library of Norway**

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/national\\_library\\_of\\_norway/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/national_library_of_norway/)

Typical photos of Norwegian history, with many classics. Around 3,000 photos shared in 130 albums, all in the public domain (but check license for each file!)

Descriptions are sometimes in Norwegian, but tags are in English.

### **Museum of Photographic Arts**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mopa1/>

This is something special, from the Museum of Photographic Arts of San Diego. You will find profile photos of people (love the Indian of America photos), space, documents and machinery.

## **SMU Central Universities Libraries**

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smu\\_cul\\_digitalcollections/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smu_cul_digitalcollections/)

This Flickr account includes the public domain photos coming from the six Central University Libraries, mainly about ships, sport events and postcards, plus many photos from Texas and Mexico, taken around the 20th century.

## **PicDrome**

<http://www.picdrome.com/page/gallery/>

PicDrome has a few hundred public domain photos, but is a collection which grows month by month. Once inside you can find many surprises.

## **Little Visuals**

<http://littlevisuals.co>

If landscapes are your bread, then you can't miss this site, which is very similar to Unsplash, with weekly images that can be downloaded by pressing one button.

## **Foodies Feed**

<https://foodiesfeed.com>

This is a smart collection of food photos, really well made if you work in this field. All pertaining to public domain.

## **Fancy Crave**

<http://fancycrave.com>

Every day the admin of this site adds two new public domain images to the site, all made by a network of photographers that want to get some feedback.

## **ISO Republic**

<http://isorepublic.com>

This website has a good selection of public domain photos, shared in 8 categories.

## **Phototeria**

<http://www.phototeria.com>

You can find a lot of stunning public domain photos on this website, including the most searched categories. Different.

## **Vintage.com**

<http://viintage.com/genre/free-vintage-public-domain-images/>

Vintage.com has a section devoted to public domain images, where you can find just 40 old advertising pages ready to be downloaded and used the way you prefer.

## **JéShoots**

<http://jeshoots.com>

Photographer Jan Vasek has put at your disposal all his photos, with public domain license, organized in 4 categories.

## **Snappy Goat**

<https://snappygoat.com>

This site provides almost 14,000,000 public domain images. Every day you can find a different theme on the homepage, or search for your own keyword.

## **Barn Images**

<https://barnimages.com>

Launched together by two Latvian photographers, this site offers new images each and every day, all in the public domain.

## **Good Free Photos**

<https://www.goodfreephotos.com>

This site offers a good selection of public domain photos, and many are about travel and geography.

## **Startup Stock Photos**

<http://startupstockphotos.com>

If you need photos about office, startups and business people in general, there's nothing better than this site, offering you public domain photos only.

## **SpaceX**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/spacex>

If you need space photos, this is a great place to discover a lot of top quality public domain photos about space and NASA.

## **Old Book Art**

<http://www.oldbookart.com>

This site has unique public domain images, around 4,700 right now. Good selection.

## **DesignerPics**

<http://www.designerspics.com>

Jeshu John is an Indian designer who needed more free quality photographs. So he decided to offer people all his photos for free.



## **Open Clipart**

<http://www.openclipart.org>

All the clipart included on this site are in the public domain, meaning you can use them in every way you want, also commercially.

## **Clker**

<http://www.clker.com>

This is another big and always updated collection of clipart in the public domain.

## **WP Clipart**

<https://wpclipart.com>

A database of over 77,000 clipart pictures at your disposal, with all files pertaining to the public domain.

## **US Federal Government Documents**

### **Search for Government Photos and Docs**

<https://search.usa.gov/search/images?affiliate=usagov&query=>

A search engine for US Government photos and documents, very easy if you know what you are searching for.

## **Flickr Government Photo Stream**

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/usagov/>

Images from the US Government, about the USA country.

## **Internet Archive's USA Government Documents Library**

<https://archive.org/details/USGovernmentDocuments>

A great archive of US Government documents you can use for your own projects.

## **National Archives**

<http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>

The National Archives catalogue, very extensive.

## **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Digital Library**

<http://digitalmedia.fws.gov/>

All about fish and wildlife of the United States, fundamental if you are creating anything connected to animals.

## **U.S. Department of Agriculture Image Gallery**

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=23559>

For projects connected to agriculture, this is a key portal with all the useful information you may need.

## **National Park Service Digital Image Archives**

[http://www.nps.gov/pub\\_aff/imagebase.html](http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/imagebase.html)

If you need information about USA National Parks, this is the best website.

## **NASA Images**

<http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/index.html#.U7ROm7GiWKI>

No space image is great if it doesn't come from NASA. There is an extensive database of images.

## **US Forest Service Fire Effects Database**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/index.html>

All about forests and fire effects.

## **NIST Dictionary of Algorithms, Data Structures, and Problems**

<http://www.nist.gov/dads/terms.html>

If you need data, this is your best website to find it.

## **Centers For Disease Control and Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov>

Any disease, current or past, has been tracked by this website, full of information.

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

<http://www.fema.gov/>

USA emergencies are tracked here. Latest information are about latest hurricanes. Full of information.

## **National Transportation Safety Board**

<http://www.nts.gov>

Everything about national transports, including press releases and pamphlets in the “Publications” area.

## **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

<http://www.noaa.gov>

All about ocean and atmosphere is inside this website. Very useful.

## **US Geological Survey**

<http://www.usgs.gov>

On this website you will find everything about planet Earth, including earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides and so on, with a lot of details.

## CHAPTER 3

### MY SECRET WAYS TO MAKE MONEY WITH PUBLIC DOMAIN MATERIALS

There are almost infinite ways to make money with public domain, but in this guide I want to focus only on new ones, fresh ones that I created on my own.

Let's start!

#### **METHOD 1 - Use PD Images For Creating Coloring Books**

That's why as a coloring books creator, that's the first thing I thought of. There are countless images available, some ready and some to edit to get them in black and white or grayscale, ready to be colored.

You can create one theme coloring books, or multiple themes. You can think about cities, places, animals, flowers, plants, characters and much, much more.

You can change the images with a software like Adobe Photoshop, or with free one like Gimp or Pixlr. Here is a video on how to turn color photos into black and white,

with Photoshop, for example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEKNfB4WQEk>

If photos are too small, you can use tools to get them bigger, with some limits, like [Photozoom Pro](#), a paid tool for PC and Mac. I like the results you may get, and I'm a very happy user of Photozoom for years.

Remember, as you are using photos that can be used by others, don't sell your book on Amazon CreateSpace, but on your website, or via a coloring books membership.

## **METHOD 2 - Create a Membership**

The idea of opening a membership is huge on public domain, and this opens a whole new outlook for you. In fact you can think about different memberships, like:

- Ebooks membership
- Audiobooks membership
- Audio files membership
- Images/Photos/Pictures membership
- Vintage posters membership
- Movies membership
- And more.

All by giving a single package of items each month. You can prepare the contents for a year in one sitting, and have your membership ready to go, passive, for one year.

For example you can giveaway 100 landscape images per month, 25 ebooks per month, 30 audio files, or 25 movies to watch online with an OTO for the download.

A membership could be created with or without a site. Think about the model in which you deliver links via a monthly email, including a message and the direct links.

## METHOD 3 - Create Your Custom Empire

Have you ever thought about the possibilities you get with public domain images? You can customize a lot of objects, from T-shirts to mugs, from cell phone covers to hats, the list is very long.

You can open your own store with [Shopify](#), or use a service like [Gearbubble](#) or [Amazon Merch](#) (this last only for T-shirts) that gives you the chance to not only create custom products, but also to resell them on their platform. Another good site for selling custom objects is [Etsy](#), where you can access cheap advertising that brings results.

You can choose vector files or clip-art, or photos only if they fit well. Or go with text-only designs using quotes or personal phrases. The final choice is yours, but just imagine the power.

You can create a cell phone cover line about dogs, T-shirts about cats, mugs with funny pictures, or a mug with a Chinese dragon for left-handed people like this one I did:

<https://www.gearbubble.com/8990>



I recommend you to choose designs in the same niche, and stay constant to get more returning customers, and sales will come.

## **METHOD 4 - Take Ideas From Public Domain And Create New Stories**

Who said you should always use books as-is? What if a particular place in the book changes? Or if the story is seen in the eyes of another character? Or if you want a different ending?

Public domain books and short stories can be firestarters for your new stories. You take out ideas, places, situations and you start creating something new and never seen before.

What if you take out Alice from the PD book “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” and you name her Lucie, changing her look and ways she acts? And what if instead of the white rabbit we make it black and unlucky, with some funny details?

The important thing is you don’t have to take in example movies or most recent books released on the same topic, because it’s only the first “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” that is in the public domain, not Disney movies or others.

Anyway, never stop experimenting!

The same can happen with non-fiction content. You can find content about a topic and rewrite in your way. For example you can search texts about a war, like the Civil War, and photos and make your book about it, personal. Or you can create a fictional story with details from a real story.

## **METHOD 5 - Turn Ebooks into Ebooks for Children**

This method is huge, and when I thought about it, I really jumped on my chair with an exclamation point on my head, like in cartoons.

What if you take a book or a story and you convert it in to a short story for children? Imagine the power of this.

You can take “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”, for example, and try to tell the story to kids, a short story about the book, obviously removing awful or bloody scenes, depending on which kids the book will be made for.

This will be useful for parents who want to buy something new and educative for their children, and also for schools, that can use and read your book in class to start talking about that book and introduce kids to high school when they will take it seriously.

For example, in Italy when we are kids, we always read the “I Promessi Sposi” by Alessandro Manzoni at school, that in the US is “The Betrothed Brothers”. But no one has ever read the final, because in every school year you never get to the end.

So if you give kids a tool like a short version of it, at least they will know the end :)

Then you can add some illustrations that you can order on Fiverr. But remember to tell them to design using their own imagination without copying from well known creations taken from that old public domain title!

## **METHOD 6 - Create Custom USB Flash Drives Filled With Public Domain Material**

If for the last idea I jumped on my chair, with this I made turned a somersault..! Let me explain.

People have the idea of collecting things, and I'm a collector too of many things, including old movies on DVD's, Japanese items and some old toy lines (GI. Joe's, Smurfs...) and so on.

Imagine being able to sell on a lot of networks your custom USB flash drive filled with public domain materials, also in different sizes.

So you will be able to give away "Classicals" if we talk about books, audiobooks only, pictures only, movies only or just fonts, to give an example. Or just fantasy books, horror movies and custom choices. All at reach with clear file names with a little text file with instructions.

After searching a lot of sites for creating USB flash drives, this one wins over others, in speed of delivery, pricing and quality of products.

<https://www.customusb.com/flash-drives/>

Personally I love the credit card design, but you can choose a lot of cool designs for offering your public domain materials.

Then you can sell it literally everywhere, to friends, on online auction sites and on your personal site.

## **METHOD 7 - Create Emails From PD Contents**

Think for a moment at how much content we have at our disposal through public domain. A life wouldn't be enough time to read them all.

Sometimes I have the problem that when I work in secondary niches that are not my own or I'm not passionate about, I have difficulties in writing emails to my lists, between one affiliate promo and the next. But this system would be great also if you have to create more messages, also to be resold.

You search for good ebooks on your niche in public domain, you find interesting parts, and you create your emails starting from them. You can add contents "as-is", or you can customize them if an old language is used or if they need to be refreshed.

But think about how many emails can you write with this method, or blog posts. Unlimited!

I used this method in the gardening niche, and it worked great for me.



## **METHOD 8 - Create Collections to Sell on DVD or Via Sales Pages**

Go on [eBay.com](https://www.eBay.com) and try to enter “public domain dvd”. How many results can you find? I got 92. Check the sales of some with more than one product, and you will see these collections are selling like hotcakes.

There’s also one guy who sells a 65 DVD collection and sold some for over \$300 each. Crazy!

The good news is that with 92 results only you can get your space pretty easily with just a bit of optimization of your description and a good image. Check two of the best sellers.

You can create DVDs to ship in the United States, or you can offer the buyer the option to download the same content if they don’t want to pay shipping fee and wait some days to receive the DVDs. I did this in Italy with some personal products, and the deal works very well.

Also in this case it’s very very important to categorize your DVDs with precision. In fact it is 100 times better to sell a DVD with 1500 images about art, animals or whatsoever than 10 DVDs with mixed images thrown in like rubbish

with no order and no idea.

You can sell DVDs of photos, images, ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music, soundtracks, magazine and much, much more, to cover areas that actually are not present on eBay.

Then... we are here to make money, right? So when you have the DVDs ready, or a download folder with ZIP files, you can sell the same DVDs with classic sales pages over the usual channels. In fact in the last few months we have seen many successful offers of people selling packages of public domain images, some with DOTD and POTD for the sales they obtained.

So check some offers, create your sales page and a good download page and you are ready to double your income from this strategy.

## **METHOD 9 - Become an Old Map Seller**

People all around the world love to have at least one old map attached to a wall or preserved for the time. And for this reason this can be a good thing for you.

All you need for doing this job is a good printer, with good quality paper of the same manufacturer of your printer. Just remember to think about the expense of ink cartridges, paper and your time to calculate the final price of maps.

For searching maps I suggest you connect to “The New York Public Library”, that recently released to the public over 20,000 maps of the highest quality in public domain. Something incredible, and before writing this method I spent more than one hour jumping from one map to the next!

Go here:

[https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?filters%5BphysicalLocation\\_mt%5B%5D=Map+Division&filter\\_s%5B%5D=Bright%5D=pd&keywords=](https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?filters%5BphysicalLocation_mt%5B%5D=Map+Division&filter_s%5B%5D=Bright%5D=pd&keywords=)

I automatically selected for you only the public domain maps. They are all about the United States, and

predominantly about New York, Washington, USA in general plus a few of the West Indies and outside countries.

Here instead you can find, on [Public Domain Sherpa](http://www.publicdomainsherpa.com) (one of the best sites about public domain), you can find all the other links to other worldwide maps. Take the time to read everything before saving maps, to check they are definitely in the public domain.

<http://www.publicdomainsherpa.com/public-domain-maps-resources.html>

Maps are to be left “as-is”, because their beauty is in the time they have been created, and people collect them just for this reason.

You can sell map prints on Etsy, eBay, Amazon or on your personal site. To ship them use the classic cardboard postal tubes.

## **METHOD 10 - Create a Research Book**

This is the last idea for this guide, and it's powerful like all the others.

In fact I suggest you create research books, made from different texts and images you can find in the public domain world. It's funny to move through different sites to find the exact content you need.

If you want some ideas about these books, here we go!

- Legends  
Indian legends, Viking legends, Ghosts stories...
- Actors, Stars & Singers History  
Find old news about them, images and videos.
- Niche Books  
Gardening, Fishing, Techniques....
- Curiosities  
About an event (war, time span, trains...)

I think you get the idea. It's like searching in a garage sale until you find your treasure. You collect them all, you clean them all and you are ready to publish them all together to create something unique that still doesn't exist.

The results can be amazing, and if you find a genre you love you can create your series.

## CLOSING

Thanks again for purchasing a copy of “Public Domain Empire”, this makes me really happy. I hope you found value in this guide, between the sites I carefully researched for you and the 10 ways to start monetizing these public domain materials.

Public domain is an incredible travel in our history, something remarkable that we must support. Never hesitate to donate money to a site you find useful, because you have to consider they do all this work for free, without asking anything in return. They pay for hosting huge files, for keeping the site safe and updated, and to answer your questions and more.

Public domain is a treasure to uncover one piece a day for a lifetime, because as I said all the time we have on planet Earth wouldn't be enough to check every item or read every book.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to send me an email to [puck82@gmail.com](mailto:puck82@gmail.com).

Thanks so much and see you soon,  
**Alessandro Zamboni**