

# Available, Accessible, Open

5 March 2024

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# The National Lottery Heritage Fund

- The National Lottery Heritage Fund (The Heritage Fund) is the UK's largest funder of heritage
- We see heritage as broad and inclusive, adapting to contemporary and future uses and challenges. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations
- It is our privilege to support the UK's heritage with money raised by National Lottery players. Since 1994, we have invested over £8.2bn in more than 45,000 projects. We operate across all four nations of the UK as a non-departmental public body of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

# Digital at The Heritage Fund

Digital outputs are:

**anything created with project funding in a digital format designed to give access to heritage or to help people engage with and learn about heritage**

- This includes all digital formats: photographs, text, software, web and app content, databases, 3D models, maps, sound and video recordings.
- Environmental and geographic surveys, research reports, educational material, and visitor resources are all likely to be produced in a digital format. Many projects will create digital outputs.

# Available and Accessible

- Digital outputs must be **available** to the public with unfettered access for between five and 20 years from the project completion date, depending on the level of your funding
- Projects need to adhere to recognized **accessibility** standards so that as many people as possible can access your digital outputs
- VocalEyes has produced [a report and benchmarking tool to help organisations ensure their websites are accessible and inclusive](#)

# Open

- By default, require projects of all values to share works created as a result of their grant funding under a CC BY 4.0
- Code and metadata produced in the course of the project to be shared under a Public Domain Dedication, or an open-source licence
- Public domain assets and digital reproductions of public domain assets should be identified (public domain mark)



# Exceptions and ethics

We provide exceptions for works that:

- depict people who are currently under 18 years old
- include special category data, for example, in oral history interviews
- are produced by or depict adults at risk of harm

We encourage all projects to consider ethics in relation to copyright, licensing and cultural heritage management. For example, there may be reasonable objections to sharing the research, data and other media produced around spiritual works, funerary objects and human remains under an open licence.

# Resources

- [National Lottery Heritage Fund digital requirements](#) (2024)
- [Working with open licences](#) (2021)
- [Creating digital resources: GDPR, copyright and using open licences](#) (2023)
- [The ethics of open sharing](#) (2021)
- Digital Heritage Hub [open licence resources](#) (2022-24)



# Thank you

For more information please get in touch  
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