

**BUDGET**

**STOCK**

**PHOTO.com**

**2012**

**STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY  
RESOURCE  
BOOK**

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**discover**  
**the Best of**  
**Free & Paid**  
**Stock Photos**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Welcome to the 2012 Edition of the BudgetStockPhoto Stock Photo Users Resource Book**

Sometimes, finding stock photos is harder than it looks.

Budget constraints, awkward search systems, sites trying to up-sell you their premium collection when all you want is a 1\$ image to drop into a blog post... Sounds familiar?

Regardless of your budget (including plenty of options for those with no budget at all!) we have compiled this guide packed full of image libraries ready to provide you with just what you are looking for.

## LICENCE TYPES

To those outside the industry all the license terms used to supply stock photography can be a little confusing! here's a little help:

A license is the agreement that a photographer or agency provides and that the image buyer or user agrees to when they buy or download an image for use - **even if the image is free you are usually bound by some kind of license agreement.** There are several types of license available ranging from very restrictive in the case of rights managed images to quite relaxed in the case of creative commons. Most images are licensed as royalty free images because that allows some flexibility and hence are popular with buyers.

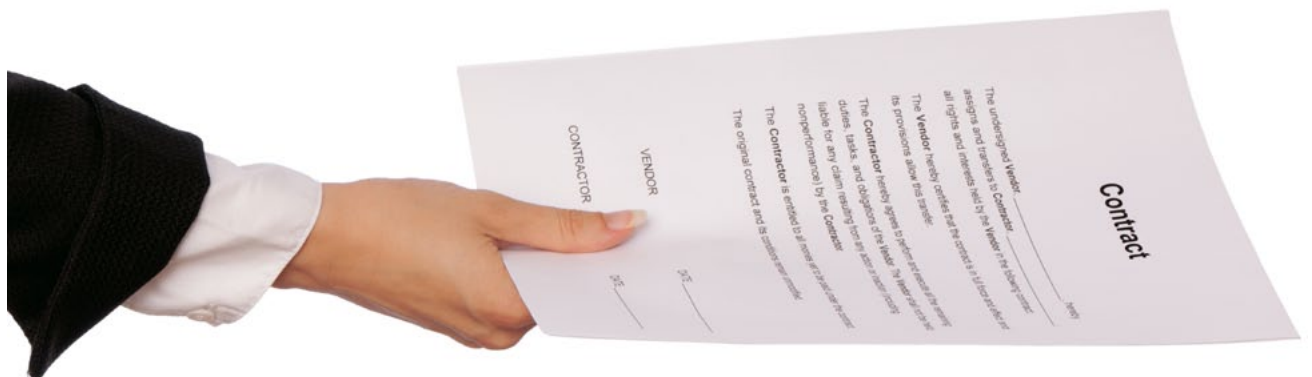
### Royalty Free License (RF)

Royalty free has become the default license type of selling stock images. It allows flexibility to the designer in that an image only needs to be purchased once for use in unlimited applications. There are however some license limitations, you can usually print up to 1/2 million copies of the image in a publication but you cannot create a derivative products using the image (one where the image forms a part of the products

reason for existence e.g. a poster, calendar or t-shirt) for that you need an extended license. All microstock images are licensed as royalty free, there are also a lot of full priced or macrostock agencies

### Creative Commons License

Creative commons licenses are a series of license types that were setup by a non profit organization to help photographers easily license their work. Creative commons licenses allow photographers to protect their work in simple to understand terms while still providing it for use free of charge to image users. Creative commons license always require an attribution (a credit to the image creator) and in a lot of cases require that derivative work be 'shared alike', images are often not available for commercial use. More about creative commons licenses



## Rights Managed (RM) License

In a rights managed license the buyer needs to define exactly where the image will be used, this includes the number of copies printed or length of time the image will be in use, size of image and industry it will be used in. Because every image use is accounted for this allows for the buyer to exclusively license the image for use in their industry hence meaning that a competitor will not be able to license the same image (this sometimes becomes a problem with royalty free where anyone can download and use an image) RM licenses are very restrictive and you need to re-license the image to use it again in a different medium. They are usually the most expensive option too, although prices can be cheaper when comparing certain usages with full priced royalty free). Look to Rights managed agencies for specialist images and those with very high production values (i.e. hard to setup)

## Editorial Use License

Images which feature logos, brands, recognisable products, events or celebrities are licensed as editorial use meaning they can only be used as part of newsworthy stories. Editorial images cannot be used in any form of advertising or commercial application.



## **Royalty Free Extended License**

An extended license extends the terms of a standard royalty free license so that an image can be used in derivative products (e.g. mugs, t-shirts, website templates) there are usually limits on the number of products that can be produced/sold. It sometimes works out cheaper to license an RM image for such usage, but microstock agencies generally offer a cheaper option for low volume use.

## **Public Domain**

This is usually an absence of a license agreement, the image creator has placed their work into the 'public domain' for use by anyone in whatever way they like.



## Which License Do I Need?

As you can see in the previous section a mesmerizing array of license terms and sales models awaits the image user, if you are new to this it can all be a little confusing! There are various criteria that you need to look at when either buying or selecting free stock photo for use.

### Copyright Free?

Most people are familiar with the term copyright, and often search for 'copyright free images', that phrase is a bit of a misnomer, very few images are truly copyright free; those images are known as 'public domain'. The vast majority of images are copyrighted and that copyright is owned by the author/photographer. You can still use a copyrighted image, indeed that's what buying stock photography is all about, every image at a stock photo agency website is copyrighted, when you 'buy the image' you in fact license it for use either in a specified way in the case of rights managed, or for unspecified use in the case of 'royalty free'. Always check the license terms to make sure that your application is covered under the license agreement.

- Exclusivity - do you need the image to be unique? > Rights managed stock
- Cost - looking for images at a minimal cost? > [Microstock](#)
- Exceptional quality images and can pass on the cost to the client > Macrostock
- No budget - doing a project for charity, or blogging, and you don't mind adding a credit for use > [free stock images](#), [creative commons](#), [PD](#)
- Resolution - high resolution images are usually more expensive than low resolution images i.e. it's more expensive to license an image that you can print on a large poster compared to one that is a few inches square on a web page.
- End use - you may need what is called an extended license if you want to use the image in a book printed in large volume or a product for sale, not all images are available for this.
- Convenience - subscription image services, or 'credit packages' often provide a very simple way to get an image at speed.
- Volume - if you regularly buy images then a subscription service is often good value, there are both macrostock and [microstock subscriptions](#) available.

## Free Images Have Hidden Costs

- Poor search options  
It can take a long time to find a free image when a good usable one off the shelf can cost \$1.
- Limited choice  
Free is not always 'free' when you find an image you will need to check the license terms are suitable, especially if you use a search engine to find images, they might not even be available for use (i.e. they are copyrighted and no usage license is available from the copyright holder / photographer). Sometimes only the low resolution version of the image is available free, the higher resolution may cost money.
- Conditions Apply  
In terms of free when referring to stock photography, the word invariably refers to you not having to pay for the image, that said there are often some hoops to jump through when using free stock images, they might need an attribution (i.e. a credit/link) where you use the images. They might only be available free of charge for non commercial or non-profit use. In many cases you need to register (for free) on a website to download the full resolution version of the image. Clearly all of these free websites support themselves in one way or another, this is usually in the form of promotional messages or advertising - some good work can be found on free sites but clearly it's more likely that you will find quality images on a paid site even if only at a cost of a few dollars.

### Calculating True Costs - Time is not Free!

The cost of an image is not just because in it's price to license. The time taken to find the image is often a large factor in the cost. If it takes two hours to find an image that costs just a few dollars then the time factor becomes an important buying choice.

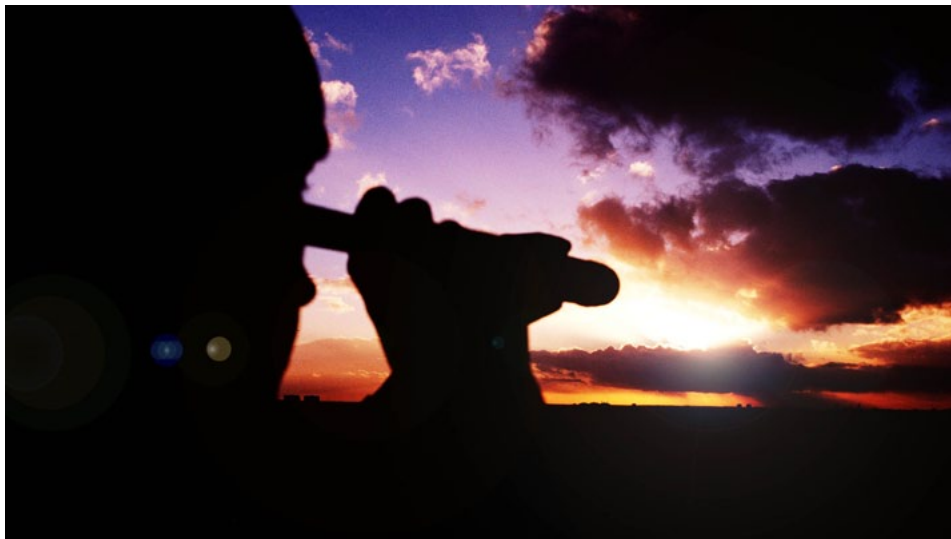


## 2012 STOCK PHOTO “STATE OF THE NATION”

*Current stock photography industry trends, forecast for 2012 and beyond*

### Rights Managed Prices Falling

In recent months there has been much talk in the stock photography community about falling prices of RM images. It's always been possible to license RM images cheaper than Full Priced RF images for many applications, but it appears that in some cases RM images are being made available for short term media use for sub \$10-25, certainly at much cheaper prices than macro stock (in many cases cheaper than microstock where expensive extended licenses is required!) Yes, RM cheaper than Micro you read that right, of course you do have those RM strings to deal with.)



### Ever More Competition in the Microstock Space

Late last year we mentioned news of Fotolia giving away a completely free subscription for 25 images / 1 month. New sites like deposit photos are almost constantly offering not just discounts but self funded 'free' images to incentivise new buyers to their sites. For the cash strapped buyer there are bargains and freebies to be had from all corners; for the time poor professional buyer doors are constantly opening with great value and easy to use microstock subscriptions and on demand images at ever increasing quality.

### Istockphoto Grief

Istock have signaled new layoffs in the past month (Jan 2012), with Getty stating that it's due to the further merging of istockphoto and their main business. While most of the major microstock sites continue to target the 'mid-low end' of the buyer's market istock continues to alienate their buyers with increased prices and sometimes flaky site functionality. Since Getty purchased istock I've had my suspicions that istockphoto.com will be yet another in a long line of photo brands that redirect buyers to getty.com; we seem to take a small step closer to that with each press release. The once young upstart of the stock photo world is fast becoming a lumbering dinosaur compared to fresh faced startups that are doing more than just look attractive - they are actually proving to be successful competition.

## Creative Commons

Well, people have touted that 'this year will be the year of Creative Commons content' for about the past 5 years. I don't think that this year will be the "year of creative commons" (quite) but when wired magazine signaled that all their photography would be licensed as CC in late 2011 there was as much "of course, why not" as there was eyebrow raising "what the f...". At a stock photography conference I attended late last year Free and Creative Commons was tabled by a surprising number of the speakers (and in a positive light). I'm not saying that everything is going to be free, but for certain uses, online (and even better in print where attributions are the norm) there will be good quality CC work becoming more available - just sadly not more easy to find, that will have to wait for another year I think.

## Photographers Going Alone

If your imagery demands are specialist (and somewhat high end) in nature you are likely to see an increase of photographers reaching out and licensing images directly to you. Plenty of this will be due to disillusionment with agencies on the behalf of those photographers. That means one of two things to buyers, awkward new websites to search instead of images in one specialist agency (and matching billing problems), but also much more direct and personal contact with content providers, closer to having that in-house photographer/freelancer back working for you (well just little bit anyway).

With so much content now available search and ease of access has become the main differentiator at the major stock agencies; price at microstock levels is almost trivial compared to research time.

If you enjoy this guide please do us a favor and spend a couple of minutes filling out our [2012 buyers survey](#).

Thanks!

# CREATIVE COMMONS

## A godsend for those looking for free photos

Creative Commons images are a special subset of 'free images'. Creative commons came about as way to simplify the minefield that is 'free' content (see later chapter) and allow photographers to provide ('license') their work for free under easy to understand terms which benefit both the photographer and the user.

The good people at [creativecommons.org](http://creativecommons.org) explain this better, but CC allows photographers and illustrators or creators of any content to clearly license their work, and tag it in such a way that it can be found online easily.

For the image user creative commons makes it clear if the images can be used in commercial applications, if changes can be made and in ALL cases an attribution as specified by the creator must be included when the image is used. The details of this attribution are usually displayed along with the image on the source web site often in a series of icons or a link to a licence page: as an example:



The above icon specifies that you can use the specified content for free in non-commercial applications, provided that you attribute (link back) as specified.



"You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform your copyrighted work — and derivative works based upon it — but only if they give credit the way you request."



"You allow others to distribute derivative works only under a license identical to the license that governs your work."



"You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform your work — and derivative works based upon it — but for noncommercial purposes only."



"You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform only verbatim copies of your work, not derivative works based upon it."

The above information was sourced from the [creative commons licenses information](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/) page. Creative commons is just one of several license types that are commonly used in the stock photography industry to allow photographers and buyers to use and control image use





The "Disadvantage" of Creative Commons (if you could call it that) is that you need to attribute the image i.e. mention the author of the work in return for getting it for free.





## Sources of Creative Commons Images





I'm not certain on the exact figures but with services like Flickr allowing users to easily license their images as creative commons it seems that there are more CC licensed images out there than there are on free photo sites with their own bespoke licenses. BUT a quick look at Flickr (more than 100 Million CC images) reveals that **most of these are not intended or at all useful for use as stock photos.**





The difficulty in creative commons images for stock is actually finding the stock images amongst all the other creative commons content. There are a couple of places I recommend looking:



Commercial Use	Registration Required	Approx Resolution	Number of Images
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[openphoto.net](http://openphoto.net)  Yes  No  2000px(v)  19,000  
Photographer community based site, where photographers contribute their work, good quality





[stockarch.com](http://stockarch.com)  Yes  No  3000px  5,000  
Photographer community site, growing collection of images with good search features and quality





[stockmedia.cc](http://stockmedia.cc)  Yes  Yes  3264px  3,000(?)  
great looking managed collection of quality creative commons stock images, free registration needed





[kavewall](http://kavewall)  Yes  No  800px  1000?  
free textures backgrounds and some images, only lower resolutions are free other available for purchase on cd for \$199





[texturewarehouse.com](http://texturewarehouse.com)  No  No  1024px  770  
good clean site with textures and backdrop photos, non commercial share alike





[insectimages.org](http://insectimages.org)  Yes  Yes  1500px  330  
specialist Entomology site featuring creative commons images of insets and creepycrawlies





[lightmatterphotography.com](http://lightmatterphotography.com)  Yes  No  900px  600  
limited selection of travel images from aaron logan attribution US 3.0 license





[tofz.org](http://tofz.org)  Yes  No  1500px  11000  
abstract, grungy and artistic images library, mostly french language descriptions, some very interesting / eye catching images, share alike license





[trip\\_album](http://trip_album)  No  No  1600px  100's  
plants listed by scientific and common name, relatively small resolution, useful research tool, attribution license

[unices.org](http://unices.org)  Yes  No  800px(v)  3500  
attribution remix license, low resolution stock photos from a microstock contributor and an interesting collection of travel work from china

[urbandirty.com](http://urbandirty.com)  Yes  No  3000px(v)  660  
grungy textures and surfaces, good search tool and a few other freebies like photoshop brushes and desktop wallpapers.

[freephotobank.org](http://freephotobank.org)  Yes  No  1000px(v)  5000  
varied collection including images from about 100 contributors, but sadly the search feature fails to find a lot of of the images, creative commons attribution

[shutterglow.com](http://shutterglow.com)  Yes  No  2568px(v)  80  
Tiny collection of attractive landscape and animal images, CC attribution license

[alegriphotos.com](http://alegriphotos.com)  Yes  No  1600px(v)  2600  
European library of cc stock images, science, abstract, nature, good search feature and broad image selection for its size

[matarese.com](http://matarese.com)  Yes  No  1000px(v)  400  
Small personal collection of creative commons images from a single photographer

### Creative Commons Samples

[stockarch.com](http://stockarch.com) (from sites own collection)







[creativity103.com](http://creativity103.com)

[search.creativecommons.org](http://search.creativecommons.org)

Allows you to search google and flickr for creative commons images, and several other search providers for non-image based content (try attaching "image of" or "stock photo" to your search terms.

[images.google.com](http://images.google.com)

Click on "advanced image search" and then select for the "Usage Rights" dropdown, ALWAYS confirm that the images you find are actually licensed as you selected.



erikcharlton animalphotos.info

[commons.wikimedia.org](http://commons.wikimedia.org)

more than 10 million categorized, photos, illustrations, footage, sound bytes etc.

[flickr.com/creativecommons](http://flickr.com/creativecommons)

More than 100 million CC licensed images from the popular photo sharing site (15 million with the most flexible "attribution only" license).

[geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk)

contributors submit images covering locations all over the uk sorted on ordnancesurvey map references.

[everystockphoto.com](http://everystockphoto.com)

Search a selection of free images sites, the license selector in advanced search allows you to filter by creative commons and other free license types.

[creativity103.com](http://creativity103.com)

unusual selection of textures, backdrops and abstract photos and illustration

[animalphotos.info](http://animalphotos.info)

Specialist collection of animal photos, well categorized.

[carpictures.cc](http://carpictures.cc)

A rev-heads wet dream, browse car photos organized by marque and model, sourced from flickr

## FREE PHOTO SITES

Getting images for free is great, and there is a lot of choice out there, but sourcing images from a free site can have its drawbacks, the license that the images are provided with is different on every site you use. Some sites prohibit commercial use of the image, most require an attribution, some require you register or signup to a newsletter to access the images, some ask that you seek permission first etc.

**You will notice that several of the sites lists are commercial microstock agencies trying to up-sell by offering a selection of free images to attract visitors.**

A word of warning: Expecting that nobody will notice if you make use of an image that you just take without permission is foolish, tools like [TinEye](#) make it free and easy to find who has used an image without permission, and stock agencies like getty and others use paid services like picscout.com track image misuse, bill the offender, taking legal action if images are not removed. If you are using images without the correct license, someone will catch up with you sooner or later. here's a typical forum quote "[I currently have a demand from getty images for \\$1200 over an image I hot-linked to in a blog entry 2 years ago.](#)"

With that in mind, here's our definitive list of resources providing free stock photos...

				Free Resolution	Guide size of Collection
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(v) = Varies ?=Approx/Guesstimate, Always confirm the license information before you use any image you find on a site listed here.

[Bigstockphoto](#) Yes No No 500px <1000(?)  
Gallery of free photos from a commercial microstock site, only medium resolution and the photos are stamped (still good for the web / a blog).

[Dreamstime](#) Yes No Yes 2700px(v) 1000s(?)  
Another commercial provider with free archive, special link to the free images at bottom right of their homepage.

[Featurepics](#) Yes Yes No 500px(v) 23,000  
Microstock agency with free 130px Blog Code for their whole collection or a large selection of un-searchable free images via a link at the bottom left of the homepage.

[123RF](#) Yes No No 400px(v) 20,000+(?)  
10's of thousands of free images accessed via a "free stock images" link on the home page.

[StockVault](#) No Yes No 2000px(v) 15,000  
Community of more than 3000 photographers sharing their photos.

[Morguefile](#) Yes No No 3000px(v) 10,000?  
Community of photographers sharing their photos, also contains a large selection of free work available under an attribution license. I rate this one highly.

[SXC.hu](#) Varies Varies Yes 1500px(v) 390,000  
StockXchange, one of the first sites to 'share' stock photos, a range of licenses, some require attribution or permission, owned by getty images to promote their microstock site 'istockphoto'

[freedigitalphotos.net](http://freedigitalphotos.net) Yes Yes No 400px(v) 5,000?  
There's a catch - only the lowest web resolution images are free the rest cost \$5

[freepixels](http://freepixels) Yes Yes No 1600px(v) 3700  
well rounded collection, good search and some really quite good stock and conceptual images on offer, resolution varies 1852x2200

[turbophoto.com/Free-Stock-Images](http://turbophoto.com/Free-Stock-Images) Yes No No 2000px(v) 2,000  
A commercial stock site with 2000 rather average images, probably sourced from PD archives, not very exciting.

[photogen](http://photogen) Yes No Yes 2000px(v) 1,200  
small collection, good search and no link needed but registration required.

[freeimages](http://freeimages) Yes Yes Yes 1000px(v) 3000  
easy browsing and instant download, variable image quality but some good pictures to be found, and a photographer upload area with growing collection of images.

[imageafter](http://imageafter) Yes No No 1600px(v) 5-10,000?  
The place to find textures and backgrounds, plus a selection of reasonable stock photos

[imagebase.davidniblack.com](http://imagebase.davidniblack.com) Yes No No 1600px+ 1600  
high quality small collection, license is a little vague "treat as PD" or creative commons attribution if you like? lots of good people photos upto 3072x2048 and some nice powerpoint backgrounds

[creepyhalloweenimages](http://creepyhalloweenimages) Yes Yes No 2000px(v) 100's  
niche site with halloween theme stock images and clipart

[freephotobank](http://freephotobank) Yes Yes No 2000px(v) 6000?  
convenient navigation but somewhat low in quality images

[freefoto.com](http://freefoto.com) No Yes Yes 1000px(v) 13000  
you might want an ad blocker if you visit this long running, commercial ridden site, free for non commercial use

[freestockphotos.com](http://freestockphotos.com) Yes Yes No 800px(v) 1000  
very limited selection, low resolution and images contain a stamp which must be left in place or replaced with a text credit

[unprofound](http://unprofound) Yes No No 1024px(v) ?  
creative and unusual site full of artistic PD images organized and browsed by colour

[adigitaldreamer/gallery](http://adigitaldreamer/gallery) ? ? No 3000px 500  
high resolution but limited range of images, no license details provided

[studio25.ro](http://studio25.ro) ? ? No 0px ?  
site current broken, listed for reference

[abstractinfluence.com](http://abstractinfluence.com) ? ? No 1800px(v) 4000  
design forum and stock photo gallery, license unclear

[amygdela.com/stock](http://amygdela.com/stock) ? ? No 1024px(v) ?  
amygdela's atmosphere, free stock photos medium resolution, described as free stock photos but license is not detailed

[woophy](http://woophy) No Yes No 1280px(v) 650,000  
"WORLD Of PHotographY" geographically organized images uploaded by contributors, not for commercial use, contact of contributor required before use.

[pixelperfectdigital](http://pixelperfectdigital) Yes No No 2100px(v) 9000  
contributed by a range of photographer, take care when navigation not to click on the paid dreamstime images displayed at the top of each page above the free gallery navigation

[amgmedia.com/freephotos](http://amgmedia.com/freephotos) Yes Yes No 700px(v) 100?  
painful navigation!, and very low resolution, you might find something for a web project here

[free-photographs.net](http://free-photographs.net) No Yes No 650px(v) 500?  
limited range and poor quality also low resolution, only just scraped in to being listed.

[freephotos.com](http://freephotos.com) Yes Yes Yes 2000px(v) 5000  
good range but mediocre quality uploads from visitors, registration required

[imagetemple](http://imagetemple) Yes No No 3000px(v) 550  
good quality free downloads, mostly nature related subjects

[freelargephotos](http://freelargephotos) No Yes No 1200px(v) 2300  
a good travel/scenic location based library, non commercial use only or buy a \$50 commercial license

[cepolina.photo](http://cepolina.photo) Yes Yes No 1024px 5800  
great navigation via category, colour and geographic location. downloads in various sizes but the maximum is 1024 pixels

[bigfoto.com](http://bigfoto.com) Yes Yes No 1200px 500?  
you need to browse this useful but small collection manually, attribution required but can be omitted if you pay a \$5 license fee

[photorack.net](http://photorack.net) Yes No No 640px(v) 27,000  
massive collection (suspiciously so?), looks like it's no longer updated, and pitiful resolution of most of the photos makes for limited application - lack of search is also annoying

[fromoldbooks.org](http://fromoldbooks.org) Yes Yes No 1800px(v) 2500  
collection of scanned illustrations from out of copyright books, organized by title

[mayang's textures](http://mayang's textures) Yes No No 2560px(v) 3800  
Credit is welcomed, simple site with huge selection of textures and backgrounds of all kinds

[designpacks](http://designpacks) Yes No No 800px(v) 225  
designpacks are zip downloads of 15 categorized images, lowish resolution but nicely thought out for web design or moodboard use

[amazingtextures](http://amazingtextures) No N/A Yes 1600px(v) 2000?  
just when you thought the world did not need another texture site! these textures are repeating so they can easily be used in 3d rendering, free for personal use, \$20 for commercial

[aarinfreephoto](http://aarinfreephoto) Yes Yes No 504px 950  
photos are watermarked and very low res, reasonable range of subjects

[photos8](http://photos8) Yes Yes No 1800px 9000  
If you can survive the horrible explosion of google ads and navigate your way through to download some good photos can be found here, mostly desktop wallpaper style subjects

[geekphilosopher](http://geekphilosopher) Yes Yes No 700px(v) 500?  
collection of PD and free images, limited range of categories and resolutions

[freemediagoo.com](http://freemediagoo.com) Yes No No 1200px 200?  
some interesting 3d rendered images, audio, textures and flash animation

[ancestryimages](http://ancestryimages) No Yes No 1600px(v) 16500  
old scans of maps and books not for commercial use

[oneodddude.net](http://oneodddude.net) No No No 1024px(v) 150  
link back attribution much appreciated, not a huge selection but nice range, images are watermarked

[holylandphotos.org](http://holylandphotos.org) No Yes No 1600px(v) 1000's?  
do check the terms, "in general 4 images can be used without permission" with a credit, images of the "holy land"

**Site Profile:** [Kozzi.com](http://Kozzi.com)

Kozzi.com is a stock photo library with more than 55,000 professionally shot images available for free if you only have limited image needs.

**Subscriptions**

Kozzi offer a number of subscriptions including 25 images a day for commercial use for just \$4.95 a month (prices subject to change)

Their [free subscription](#) allows up to 30 images per month to be downloaded without charge

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your search keywords PHOTOS VECTORS VIDEO

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GET 30 HIGH QUALITY PHOTOS PER MONTH FREE NO CATCH!

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1 Month \$4.95/mo	12 months \$49.95/mo
75-A-DAY Subscriptions	
1 Month \$9.95/mo	12 months \$99.95/mo
250-A-DAY Subscriptions	
1 Month \$24.95/mo	12 months \$249.95/mo

Subscribe Now For Free

**Stop Paying Ridiculous Prices for Professional Stock Photos**

Kozzi Images is the worlds first advertiser supported professional stock agency. You will not find Kozzi Photos, Vector, or Video in ANY other site. Everything at Kozzi is produced by professionally trained staff exclusively for Kozzi members. Subscribe today and download up to 30 Images per month for free or upgrade to a full monthly membership for \$4.95AUD per month. No that is not a typo - download up to 750 Images a month for the cost of a cup of coffee.

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FEATURED LIGHTBOXES

- Business Concepts
- Fruit Drinks
- Spring Flowers
- Social Silhouette
- Tradesman

[bajstock.com](http://bajstock.com) Yes Yes No 2800px(v) 2700  
 images from one photographer, some good conceptual images and locations in france, high resolutions but annoying popups!

[DHD Multimedia Gallery](http://DHD Multimedia Gallery) Yes Yes No Varies 29000  
 very eclectic mix of images by various contributors, this site has been running for more than 15 years!

[Cromavista](http://Cromavista) Yes No No 1024px(v) 100?  
 spanish site with various architectural, creative and location photos

[imageblowout](http://imageblowout) Yes Yes No 1280px(v) 260  
 small, non-searchable collection of zip downloads, not updated, some useful New York images

[4freephotos.com](http://4freephotos.com) Yes No No 1600px(v) 1000  
 links are welcomed as are image contributions, selection typical of user generated content, variable quality but some users have contributed some good images also

[paulbates.com](http://paulbates.com) Yes Yes No 1820px(v) 50?  
 small gallery from individual photographer, flowers, sunrises and sunsets, yawn

[vintagepixels.com](http://vintagepixels.com) Yes Varies Yes 1400px(v) 1400  
 an odd collection of scans of old photos sorted by year (era) and category

[twicpix.net](http://twicpix.net) ? ? No 4000px(v) 9000  
 german gallery (click sprache to select english language) lots of photos of berlin and nature subjects, images described as free but no license details.

[photorogue.com](http://photorogue.com) Varies Varies No 1200px(v) See note  
 free photo research, some creative free images and others sourced from various free photo libraries, request an image and see if they find anything!

[textureking](http://textureking) Yes No No 1600px(v) 350  
 well edited collection of texture and backgrounds, nice site layout

[freerangestock.com](http://freerangestock.com) Yes Yes Yes 2400px(v) 10,000  
 more than 2000 images in their in house catalogue + thousands of other images contributed by users

[cgtextures.com](http://cgtextures.com) Yes No Yes ?px(v) ?  
 texture and background image site, free accounts were not available for my review, but paid memberships were, conveniently, available for purchase....




[photl.com](http://photl.com) Yes No Yes 4362px 10,000+  
 amazing quality photos, you need to create an account to download the images, for free you can access 35mb of files per day (this limits you to 2 of the highest resolutions, or several of the smaller ones) The site states they have 250,000 images, but from the search results I find few matches leading me to believe this figure is perhaps false, there seems to be a slant towards food related subjects.




[freewebphoto.com](http://freewebphoto.com) Yes Yes Yes 700px(v) 1000  
 registration required and 5 image download daily limit, good quality subjects lots of conceptual subjects covered which are also available for purchase if a higher resolution is needed or web use license without attribution, free for web use only

[stickstock.com](http://stickstock.com) ? ? No 1200px(v) 1000  
 some nice illustrations but no terms are listed, anyone can upload anything? could have the potential to be copyright infringement nightmare!




[pachd.com](http://pachd.com) Yes Yes No 1024px(v) 1500  
 some nice images of flowers, food, and travel locations, license for USD 1.99 if you don't want to include an attribution.




[fontplay.com/freephotos](http://fontplay.com/freephotos) Yes No No 2624px(v) 5500  
 simply described as free photos with no further terms listed this site contains all sorts of interesting things




[allfreeimages.net](http://allfreeimages.net) ? ? Yes 2624px(v) 5500  
no search, some useful conceptual stock subjects as well as the usual architecture and landscapes

[nationsillustrated.com](http://nationsillustrated.com) No ? Yes 2450px(v) 7700  
somewhat vague when it comes to reuse terms - are these really free? good selection of images from all over the world uploaded by contributors, not for commercial use

[sunipix.com](http://sunipix.com) Yes Yes No 600px(v) 1000?  
mostly nature and location / landmark images plus a few concepts like biology and finance, only available at low resolution




[visipix.com](http://visipix.com) Yes Yes No 1200px(v) 76,000?  
lots of images in the photo gallery section, but where did they all come from? mostly landscapes but also paintings (mildly suspicions?)

[texture bin 342](http://texturebin342.com) ? ? No 800px(v) 1000?  
seems be guestbookware (sign the guestbook) a trove of interesting textures grunge backgrounds

[freestockphotos.biz](http://freestockphotos.biz) Yes Varies No 2400px(v) 11,000  
large collection of categorised images, with additional collections of PD, Creative commons and other license types, main collection does not require attribution but link is appreciated.

[microshots.org](http://microshots.org) Yes No No 1024px 1,000  
collection of macro images and close-up texture details, no search

[rgbstock.com](http://rgbstock.com) Yes No Yes 3000px(v) 50,000  
large collection of user contributed images, registration required for download

[freestockphotos.es](http://freestockphotos.es) Yes No No 650px(v) 5500  
good quality concept stock photos, but pathetically small sizes for free - high resolutions require payment (hybrid microstock).

[freeimagescollection.com](http://freeimagescollection.com) Yes No No 5184px(v) 250  
small but glowing collection of images available in very high resolution, mostly flowers and nature subjects

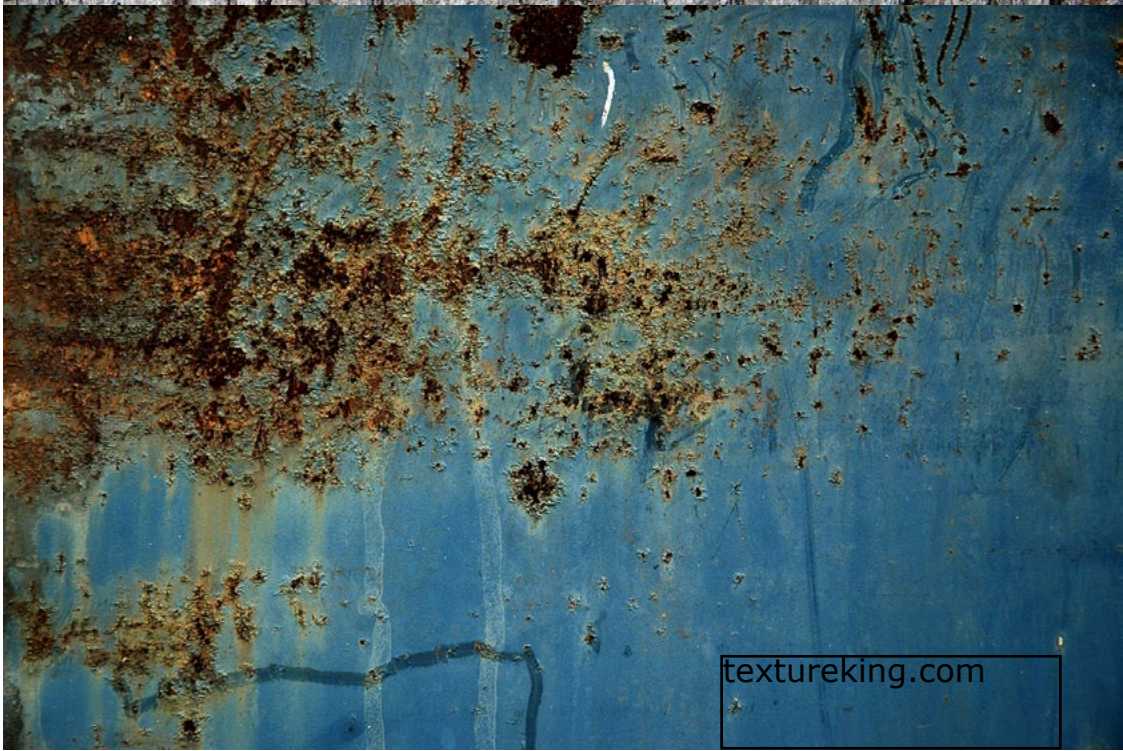
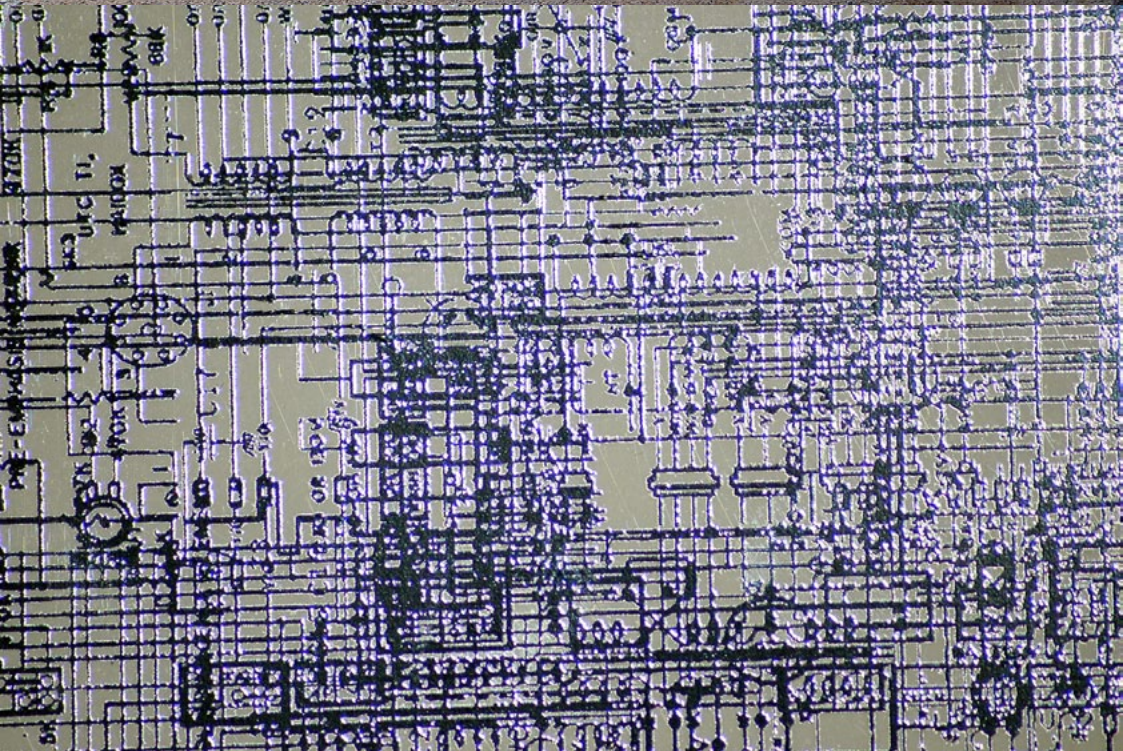
[photosshare.gr](http://photosshare.gr) Yes No No 3200px(v) 3500  
collection including some free stock photo galleries, nature, textures, and 3D RED CYAN images

[free-images-etc.rb-d.com](http://free-images-etc.rb-d.com) Yes No No 3200px(v) 1000  
small collection of useful images arranged over 10 pages manual search

[businessimagesfree.com](http://businessimagesfree.com) Yes No No 400px 3000  
all images on this microstock style site are available free in low resolution, business themed collection

NB: Always confirm the license details before you use the images, all of the sites listed here clearly display their terms of use which must be followed. Commercial use means that you can use the images in advertisements NOT that you can create products for sale using the images - This is possible but in almost all cases you will need to contact the provider or negotiate an 'extended license'.





## Disadvantages of Free Sites

Although free sites are great, there is a good reason that most of the images on them are free, they are usually not up to the same quality as those on paid sites. They might be only be suitable for use as a small online images. Just like with PD images it's often hard to find an image suitable for your needs unless your requirements are for simple non conceptual images like landscapes, flowers, nature or travel. As a simpler, and safer alternative you can look at a [microstock](#) agency (quality images, huge selection, easy search and priced from \$1).

## Free Photo Search Services

[photopy.com](#) search through PD and creative commons licenses from flickr and wikimedia - unfortunately very limited cover!

[picfindr.com](#) search displays results from 6 or 7 sites, some commercial (microstock), some pd and come independent free image sites.

[veezle.com](#) searches several free stock photos sites in one go.



[imagetemple.com](http://imagetemple.com)



# PUBLIC DOMAIN

PD Images are pictures that have been placed into the world 'public domain' and are free to use by anyone, they are sometimes also referred to as 'copyright free'.in some cases though there are special requests made that the author of the photos be attributed so read the terms of use on each site you plan to source your images from.

There are some great images to be found, below we have listed some of the better sites we have come across:

Site:	Resolution (typ.)	Collection Size
<a href="http://pdphoto.org">pdphoto.org</a>	1024x768	1000's
<a href="http://unclesamsphotos.com">unclesamsphotos.com</a> showcasing PD images from the US government	N/A	Directory
<a href="http://public-domain-photos.com">public-domain-photos.com</a> lots of flowers, landscapes and travel images from the creators of pdphoto.org	1024x768	13000
<a href="http://oldbookillustrations.com">oldbookillustrations.com</a> some lovely old illustrations and etching from bygone books	400x600	100's
<a href="http://publicdomainpictures.net">publicdomainpictures.net</a> nicely setup archive of user contributed PD images	1280x900	4000
<a href="http://grin.hq.nasa.gov">grin.hq.nasa.gov</a> and/or <a href="http://nix.nasa.gov">nix.nasa.gov</a> Great images in nasa is a collection of high resolution space related images.	1000x1000 varies	1000+
<a href="http://usa.gov/Topics/Graphics.shtml">usa.gov/Topics/Graphics.shtml</a> US Government Photos, wide selection of topics	N/A	Directory
<a href="http://photo.itc.nps.gov/storage/images">photo.itc.nps.gov/storage/images</a> Photos from american national parks, in photo CD (.PCD) format	up to 2048 x 3072	1000+

<a href="http://openclipart.org">openclipart.org</a> PD licensed clipart from contributors and via wikimedia commons	small / varies	?
<a href="http://photolib.noaa.gov">photolib.noaa.gov</a> National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Photo Library	1024x768 varies	32,000
<a href="http://gimp-savvy.com/photo-archive">gimp-savvy.com/photo-archive</a> collection of PD images from US government sites	small / varies	27000
<a href="http://ars.usda.gov/is/graphics/photos">ars.usda.gov/is/graphics/photos</a> US Department of Agriculture. animals, crops, research, fruits and veggies - good quality	2700x1850 (varies)	1000's
<a href="http://nps.gov/features/yell/slidefile/index.htm">nps.gov/features/yell/slidefile/index.htm</a> gallery if PD images from yellowstone national park	2000x1300 (varies)	1000's
<a href="http://logodesignweb.com/stockphoto">logodesignweb.com/stockphoto</a> small collection, described as PD but credit required	600x400	100's
<a href="http://burningwell.org">burningwell.org</a> community repository of free use images	3072x2048	2000?
<a href="http://photolibrary.fema.gov">photolibrary.fema.gov</a> federal emergency management agency photolibrary, some useful PD images depicting disasters, floods, forestfire etc	3747x2498 (varies)	16,500
<a href="http://copyrightfreephotos.com">copyrightfreephotos.com</a> small collection of location within the uk, nature, technology	1700x100 (varies)	300?
<a href="http://public-photo.net">public-photo.net</a> somewhat ordinary in terms of subject / composition quality	3072x2304 (varies)	3500
<a href="http://defense.gov/photos">defense.gov/photos</a> US department of defnece image collection	2100x1300 (varies)	Lots
<a href="http://logotypes.ru/default_e.asp">logotypes.ru/default_e.asp</a> almost 5000 company logos in vector format (for editorial use only)	adobe illustrator .ai files	5000
<a href="http://public-domain-image.com">public-domain-image.com</a> just horrible when it comes to ads, but good categories of reasonable res PD stock	2700 (varies)	2000?



## Disadvantages of using PD Images

Very limited choice, although there appears to be lots of PD images out there, it's actually quite difficult to find an image suitable for most concept topics (lifestyle, metaphors, images with people suitable for advertising etc) wide coverage is limited to areas where US government agencies are involved so there are some good pickings to be found in agriculture, food, minerals etc.

Stylish, up to date stock images... hmm, no, look elsewhere, or look every hard indeed.

Most of the images are dated looking or have some technical problems, while you can correct some of these issues in Photoshop its often better to save time and spend a couple of dollars on a [microstock image](#) if your budget allows.

Unlike [creative commons](#) there is no easy way to search several PD websites at once, and typically each site only has a few thousand images, unless you regularly need images on a specific topic that is served by one of the PD sites then you will spend a lot of time searching for suitable pictures.



## BUYERS MARKET VS FREE PHOTOS

### “It’s never been better for image buyers”

While photographers face stiff competition in the marketplace, the advent of high quality digital cameras, their reduction in price and the Internet’s ability to drive down prices and source images from all over the world means the market has never been better for the image buyer. The stock photo industry is valued at 1.8 billion dollars a year (2010), In 2004 62% of designers used stock photos and graphics, according to recent surveys that figure has risen to well of 90%.

There is currently so much choice available, microstock agencies (crowd sourced image libraries) aggregate quality images from all over the world by professional and amateur photographers. Images which don’t meet microstock standards are often offloaded for free\* on free stock photo sites and into the creative commons. With billions of images available (yes literally) the difficult problem is finding what you want. Images are scattered across a range of stock libraries and prices.

The traditional (macrostock) agencies have, facing stiff competition from microstock, created new or more flexible pricing options, subscription royalty free offerings and with a ‘flood of images’ from newly empowered photographers the quality of royalty free images at traditional agencies is better than ever. These traditional full-priced agencies are having to differentiate themselves from the low-cost microstock sites which have become popular over recent years.



## MICROSTOCK AGENCIES

Microstock agencies source their images from not just professional photographers but also amateur photographers while still maintaining a strict quality level. In doing so microstock sites can provide images at a much lower cost than traditional stock photo agencies which you might consider to be prohibitively expensive.

Microstock started in around 2002 but took until about 2005/6 to gain acceptance and really start to take off. Rather than sourcing images from professional photographers, the advent of digital cameras meant that a lot of hobbyist photographers were able to easily take some great looking stock images, microstock photographers, sometimes professional and sometimes amateur are able to sell these images direct to you via microstock agency.

Most microstock websites operate on a credit based system where you pre buy credits which allow you to make downloads of images. Although microstock images are not free, they normally cost between \$1 and \$5 depending on the resolution you need, once you have registered with a microstock site (a few minutes) it's quick and easy to find and download an image to suit your needs. Most agencies have several million images to choose from. With this in mind it's often a better option to use a microstock image than spend 30 minutes searching for a free image with no guarantee that you will find something suitable. Of course because you pay for the image then there is usually no need to attribute / credit link the image where you use it, making everything look a lot more professional.

While 'cheap' might be a good term to describe the agencies listed here, our guiding principle is "quality discount photos", how to get either more or better quality images for your money. Most of these sites will offer low resolution images from about \$1, the guide prices listed show prices for a typical medium resolution purchase.

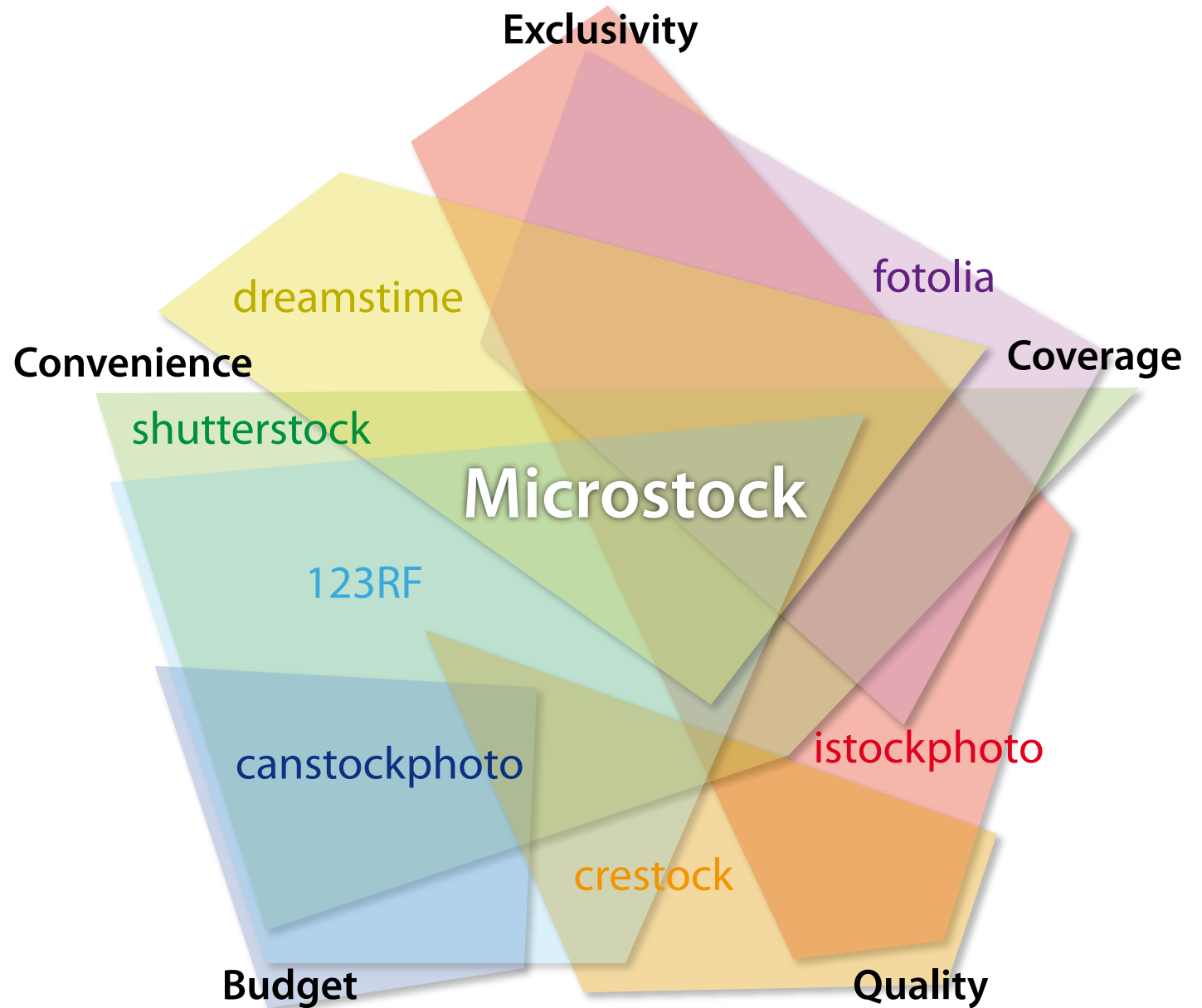
Most of the major microstock agencies have some form of unique selling point, and while you can probably find an image to suit your needs from any of agency, some of the sites we have listed cater for different buyers needs better than others - it's depends on your circumstances. Be it a one off purchase, an obscure subject or location, a high resolution photo for print use, a regular need for lots of small images etc. - there is likely an agency to suit your needs.



## Microstock Marketplace

This venn diagram highlights of the differing ways that some microstock sites have tried to sell to different market segments. While many sites sit in the 'middle of the road', several have carved out their own market segment suiting some buyers requirements better than others.

We'll look at each agency in detail later in this section...



## How to Choose a Microstock Agency

With many of the microstock sites selling a similar image collection, (photographers upload the same image to several sites) the stock agencies differentiate themselves in various ways. The question should perhaps be restated which agency is best for my individual needs?

- **Value:** [CanstockPhoto.com](#) have high res images for a low price, but a smaller image collection, [123RF](#) has a much larger collection and images much cheaper than other agencies with similar sized collections.
- **Bulk Buy:** [Shutterstock](#) offers a flexible subscription, providing value to volume image users. A month subscription can easily be paid for by downloading 10 or so high resolution images which might cost 15-20 dollars each elsewhere. [123RF](#) provides credits to volume buyers. Prices from \$0.21 per image.
- **Search:** Not all sites are alike when it comes to the quality of their search engines. When choosing a microstock site you might also check how good the search engine is.



- **Guarantee:** Several sites including [Shutterstock](#) warrant their images against legal costs.





- **Exclusivity:** Exclusive image collections like the [Fotolia](#) infinite collection mean you can't find the same image on sale elsewhere.
- **Coverage:** The number of images each site has on offer: if you require specialty stock images then choose a site which more images to increase the likelihood of your subjects being covered - use the tables of comparison above.







- **Style:** [Crestock.com](#) offers premium images and a general collection of more stylish images, prices are much higher than average. The images at [Dreamstime](#) and several of the other sites have a noticeably more 'clean' and minimal look.
- **Quality:** No matter what the search terms are the results at [Crestock.com](#) are always of the highest quality.

## Microstock Directory

There are plenty of microstock sites to choose from, we've listed the major agencies here, also look at the microstock subscription section for more options.

-  Download Options
-  Guide Price (3Megapixel image)
-  License Types
-  Number of images in collection

### [123RF](#)

-  Credits+Subscription  \$2
-  RF+Editorial  9.5 Million





Great value images, and free link code to paste images into a blog, 123RF have a premium microstock collection called EVO

### [Fotolia.com](#)

-  Credits+Subscription  \$5
-  RF  13 Million





Combines one of the largest collections in microstock with reasonable pricing, Fotoila also have a premium price "infinite collection" and offer exclusive images

### [Dreamstime.com](#)

-  Credits+Subscription  \$8.4
-  RF+Editorial  11 Million

Another massive selection of images, but more expensive than most others.

### [CanstockPhoto.com](#)

-  Credits+Subscription  \$2
-  RF+Editorial  2 Million

One of the best for value, but limited choice for more unusual subjects.

### [Crestock.com](#)

-  Credits+Subscription  \$5
-  RF  4 Million





Higher prices, more limited selection but certainly king of quality in microstock - stunning images!

### [Pixmac.com](#)

-  Credits+Subscription  \$5.85
-  RF  3 Million





One stop shop reselling their own collection along with a premium 'luxury' collection from image source. Offer a convenient way to buy just a single image without registering

### [Bigstockphoto.com](#)

-  Credits  \$5
-  RF+Editorial  4.7 Million




reliable stock agency, in business for 5 years+, now owned by subscription site shutterstock

### [Depositphotos.com](#)

-  Credits  \$2
-  RF  2 Million

launched in 2009, with low prices, also offers subscription plan

### [Stockfresh.com](#)

-  Credits  \$3
-  RF  1 Million

New startup site from the people who originally brought you the free site stock.xchng and stockxpert



Here's a few smaller libraries we have not reviewed in detail:

[Cutcaster](#)

[Yay Micro](#)

[Most Photos](#)

[Zoonar](#)

[Panther Media](#)

## Subscription Microstock

### Subscription vs Credits ?



Credits allow you to buy images on a casual basis, where as a subscription offers better value to those who regularly require images or require multiple high resolution images in a short time frame (usually professional designers and design groups, but perhaps also newspaper and media websites). As of 2010/12 almost all of the of microstock sites offer a subscription, we have highlighted two that are targeting different market segments.

### Price Guide

Our guide prices are based on obtaining an average resolution image of 3 megapixels or more, in most cases the websites advertise images from \$1, this will only buy you a low resolution image (sub 1MP) suitable for a webpage or a blog. 3 megapixels allows more flexible online use, cropping and printing at a modest size. Of course you can obtain higher resolutions, these typically cost between \$5 and \$10 dollars. You can get significant discounts by buying large numbers of credits, but sometimes you need to spend \$100 or even \$1000 to obtain the lowest price, in calculations we have taken the cheapest starter option which invariably means that individual credits cost more than buying in bulk.



### [Shutterstock](#)



 Subscription  \$49+ (\$249pcm)

 RF+ Editorial  15.3 Million

Shutterstock was one of the first microstock agencies to offer a subscription service, much copied but still one of the best. Offer excellent value if you need regular access to high resolution images

### [Dreamstime.com](#)

 Subscription  \$44.99 weekly (upto 70 images per week)

 RF+Editorial  11 Million

Unique weekly subscription offering from dreamstime, up to 10 images per day (higher level / popular images use more credits and hence less higher level images can be downloaded).



## Useful Microstock Search Tools & Directories

If you are a regular microstock buyer and have more than one account you can integrate microstock search into firefox with the picniche buyers toolbar (currently in beta) see [picniche.com/toolbar](http://picniche.com/toolbar) for more details.

- [cyclo.ps](http://cyclo.ps) is a search engine that shows results from all the major microstock sites, flickr and a couple of free sites too.
- [shotspy.com](http://shotspy.com) another a search engine that lets you search multiple microstock agencies on one go
- [MicrostockPhotography.com](http://MicrostockPhotography.com) - microstock photography industry information & news
- And of course... [Budgetstockphoto.com](http://Budgetstockphoto.com)

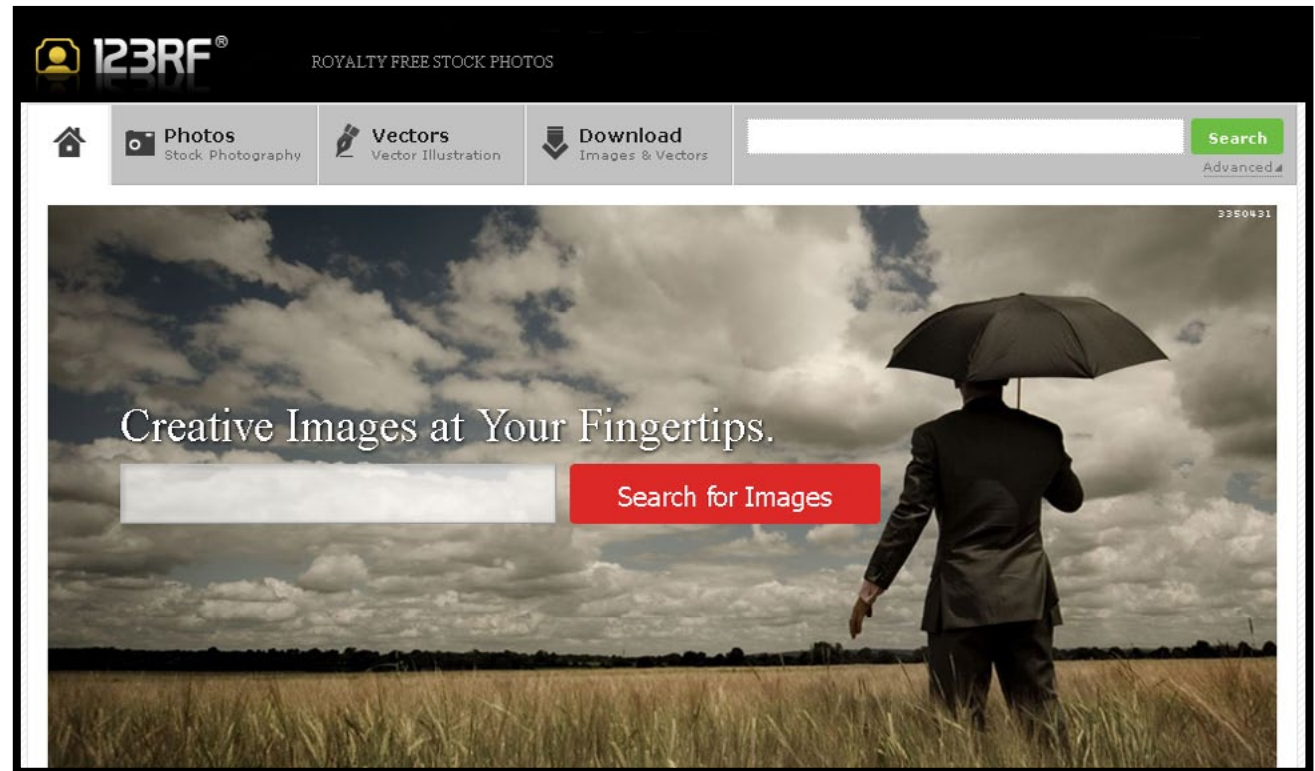


## Site Profile: 123rf.com

"[123RF.com](http://123RF.com) is one of the world's largest players in the royalty-free microstock photography industry.

Since its debut in June 2005, 123RF.com today hosts over million stock photographs and vector illustrations with over 100,000 contributing photographers and illustrators. The 123RF.com platform is also a channel for photographers, illustrators and designers to showcase their talent, allowing them to promote and sell their creations to a worldwide audience through a sales profit sharing model between 123RF and each contributor.

With images going for less than \$1, 123RF.com is committed to making high quality stock photography affordable for everyone. 123RF.com also offers its clients the flexibility of acquiring images via subscription plans or credit packages, whichever suits their needs better."



“You shouldn’t simply assume is that micro is cheap, RF is in the middle and RM is expensive – clients can spend hundreds of dollars in a microstock site on an image, and they can get RM cheaply.”





Lewis Blackwell, Director of Strategy for Image Source

## MACROSTOCK / FULL PRICE

Traditional stock agencies sell Rights Managed or Royalty Free Images, some still sell packages or 'virtual cds'. Since the term [microstock](#) was coined you might also come across these agencies being called macrostock, and in some cases those offering lower cost images (~\$50 per image) are described a 'midstock' (although this term tends to describe microstock sites that offer premium images).




We have listed a few of the bigger agencies here, despite the inroads that microstock has made the vast majority of images available today are licensed by the full price agencies, if you can afford the price this is where you will find, with enough research, an image of ANYTHING; including flowers growing on the Moon!

### [Alamy.com](#)

 Individual Image  \$190  
 RM & RF  16.5 Million

Alamy was a pioneer of internet photography, they were one of the first to accept and resell digital images from any photographer who's work was good enough to meet their guidelines.

[Getty Images](#) (new customer 15% off with coupon XH2PC46N)

 Individual Image  \$525  
 RM & RF  70 Million





One of the worlds largest stock agency, featuring a vast array of brands and licensing options.

### [Corbis](#)

 Individual Image  \$400  
 RM & RF  100 Million

Similar to Getty in terms of selection, price and quality, you might also visit veer.com one of their satellite brands.

### [Superstock](#)

 individual Image  \$329  
 RM & RF  ?





A selection of images from the corbis brands at better rates, with various discount and promotional offers thrown in.

### [MediaBakery](#)

 individual Image  \$319 or micro  
 RM & RF + Micro  20,000

collection of microstock, rf and rights managed images

### [Jupiter Images / Jupiter Unlimited](#)

 Individual + Sub  \$350  
 RM & RF  Millions?





New simplified website, subscriptions to access 700,000 RF images from \$1249 Yearly for the access to some well known full price collections including bananastock, thinkstock and comstock

### [Photos.com](#)

 Subscription  \$ 9 9 - \$ 2 4 9 /  
 RF  2 Million  
 Month





One monthly free for approx 400,000 images for \$99. Access millions of images from jupiter images collection for for \$249/Month \$1,199/Year.

### [iCLIPART.com](#)

 individual + Sub  \$295/year  
 RF  7.8 Million


Clipart, but professional quality, fonts and photos, low cost weekly subscriptions for casual users start at \$12.95.

### [Clipart.com](#)





 Subscription  \$159/year  
 RF  10 Million\*





A one stop web design shop: Clipart, fonts, illustrations, photos, sounds, vinyl ready image. low cost one week subscription for casual users start at \$14.95 allows you to trial the service without risk. Approx 100,000 of each photos and clipart, the majority of the 10 Million comes from 5 Million web graphics/buttons, NOTE: photos are only available in web resolutions.





### [punchstock.com](#)





 Individual  \$350  
 RF  2 Million\*





Over 2 million royalty-free photos and illustrations from Jupiterimages, Getty Images, Corbis and over 50 other brands, all in one convenient search





- [imagine.com](http://imagine.com)  Individual  \$349  
 RF+RM  3.5 Million\*





Source of rights managed and royalty free from 100 top selling image collections
- [masterfile.com](http://masterfile.com)  Individual  \$apply  
 RF+RM  ?





nice looking collection, and good site functionality allowing easy search of both RM and RF collections and filtering between the two.
- [tipsimages.co.uk](http://tipsimages.co.uk)  Individual+CD  \$399  
 RF+RM  ?





41 sales offices around the world, individual images and CD sales of various brands
- [Robert Harding](http://RobertHarding.com)  Individual  \$236  
 RF+RM  5 Million

Leading independent travel image specialist
- [agefotostock.com](http://agefotostock.com)  Individual+CD  \$apply  
 RF+RM  ?





Combining both RM and RF with low budget rf (micro) offering from easyFotostock
- [firstlight.com](http://firstlight.com)  Individual  \$355 (varies)  
 RF+RM  ?





Representing Canadian stock photographers and major worldwide collections
- [luckypix.com](http://luckypix.com)  Individual  \$apply  
 RF+RM  ?





highly edited collection of unique images
- [worldofstock.com](http://worldofstock.com)  Individual  \$149  
 RF+RM  200k

Representing 120+ photographers under a strict fair trade ethic
- [fotosearch.com](http://fotosearch.com)  Individual  \$99+  
 RF+RM  5.6 Million

searching 5.6 million images from more than 100 images collections and well as a range of image CDs

- [imagesource.com](http://imagesource.com)  Individual  \$199+ (varies)  
 RF  5.6 Million

London based premium royalty free
- [imagestate.com](http://imagestate.com)  Individual+CD  \$299+ (varies)  
 RF+RM  5.6 Million

Another U.K. based agency offering regular promotions and personalised service
- [acclaimimages.com](http://acclaimimages.com)  Individual  \$252.95 (varies)  
 RF+RM  225,000

Acclaim Images offers over 200,000 images by hundreds of professional photographers covering all major topics.

### Macrostock Notes:

All prices are approximate, in US Dollars and subject to change, see each agency for full details and license details.

What is RM & RF? - [View Glossary](#).

All our single image prices comparisons are based on a typical RF license for an image of at least 1000x1000 pixels, in some cases cheaper licenses can be obtained for web/online use, lower resolutions or by subscription program. Shocked by the price? Remember the price gets you quality, wider choice and a level of exclusivity not found with microstock images, [but for many people microstock offers a better value solution](#).

## SPECIALITY STOCK IMAGES

### Travel

#### Free Sites (Global)

[woophy.com](http://woophy.com)

Community based creative commons image library of geo tagged photos

[photoeverywhere.co.uk](http://photoeverywhere.co.uk)

A good selection of creative commons travel images from the UK and around the world

[freelargephotos.com](http://freelargephotos.com)

free collection categorized mostly on geographic location

#### Location Specific Free Sites & Creative Commons

[freeaussiestock.com](http://freeaussiestock.com)

Small collection Australian stock photography

[geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk)

aiming to photograph every bit of UK and Ireland

#### Location Specific Microstock

[microstock.co.il](http://microstock.co.il)

microstock agencies specializing in Israeli images

[Travel @ bigstock.com](http://Travel@bigstock.com)

Travel search results from their microstock collection

[Travel @ 123RF](http://Travel@123RF)

Travel and landscape images

[Photokore.com](http://Photokore.com)

microstock agency aimed at the Asian market





## Christmas and Festive

### Free Sites

[Pixelperfectdigital.com/free\\_stock\\_photos/showgallery.php/cat/576](http://Pixelperfectdigital.com/free_stock_photos/showgallery.php/cat/576)

Selection of good quality free Christmas stock photos uploaded by visitor contributors

[Christmasstockimages.com](http://Christmasstockimages.com)

Small collection free festive and seasonal photos for web/online use

[Vintage Christmas Clipart](#)

Very small collection, but great looking Christmas illustrations

[Festive at FreePixels](#)

About 200 free xmas holiday stock images

[Seasonal and Celebration at www.freeimages.co.uk](http://www.freeimages.co.uk)

Christmas stock and festive backgrounds / light effects

### Commercial Sites

[Christmas @ bigstock.com](#)

christmas search results from their microstock collection

[Celebrations and Holidays @ 123RF](#)

Festive and Event stock images



## Halloween

### Free Sites

[free-images.org.uk/halloween/index.htm](http://free-images.org.uk/halloween/index.htm)

Small selection of halloween photos, low resolution, attribution required

[freedigitalphotos.net/images/Halloween\\_g164.html](http://freedigitalphotos.net/images/Halloween_g164.html)

21 halloween images from freedigitalphotos.net

[creepyhalloweenimages.com](http://creepyhalloweenimages.com)

Around 400 free halloween photos in resolution up to 1600px (3000px for free subscribers)

[www.holidaygraphics.com/halloween](http://www.holidaygraphics.com/halloween)

Mostly low resolution clipart for web use

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Halloween\\_images](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Halloween_images)

Creative halloween some commons images on wikipedia

### Commercial Sites

[Halloween @ bigstock.com](http://Halloween@bigstock.com)

halloween search results from their microstock collection

[Halloween @ 123RF](http://Halloween@123RF)

halloween search results from 123RF



[creepyhalloweenimages.com](http://creepyhalloweenimages.com)

## Religion & Faith

### Stock Image Sites

[easterstockphotos.com](http://easterstockphotos.com)

Images of Easter and Christianity themes

[FaithClipart.com](http://FaithClipart.com)

Media for a modern church, clipart, background and templates

[goodsalt.com](http://goodsalt.com)

The world's leading source of religious imagery

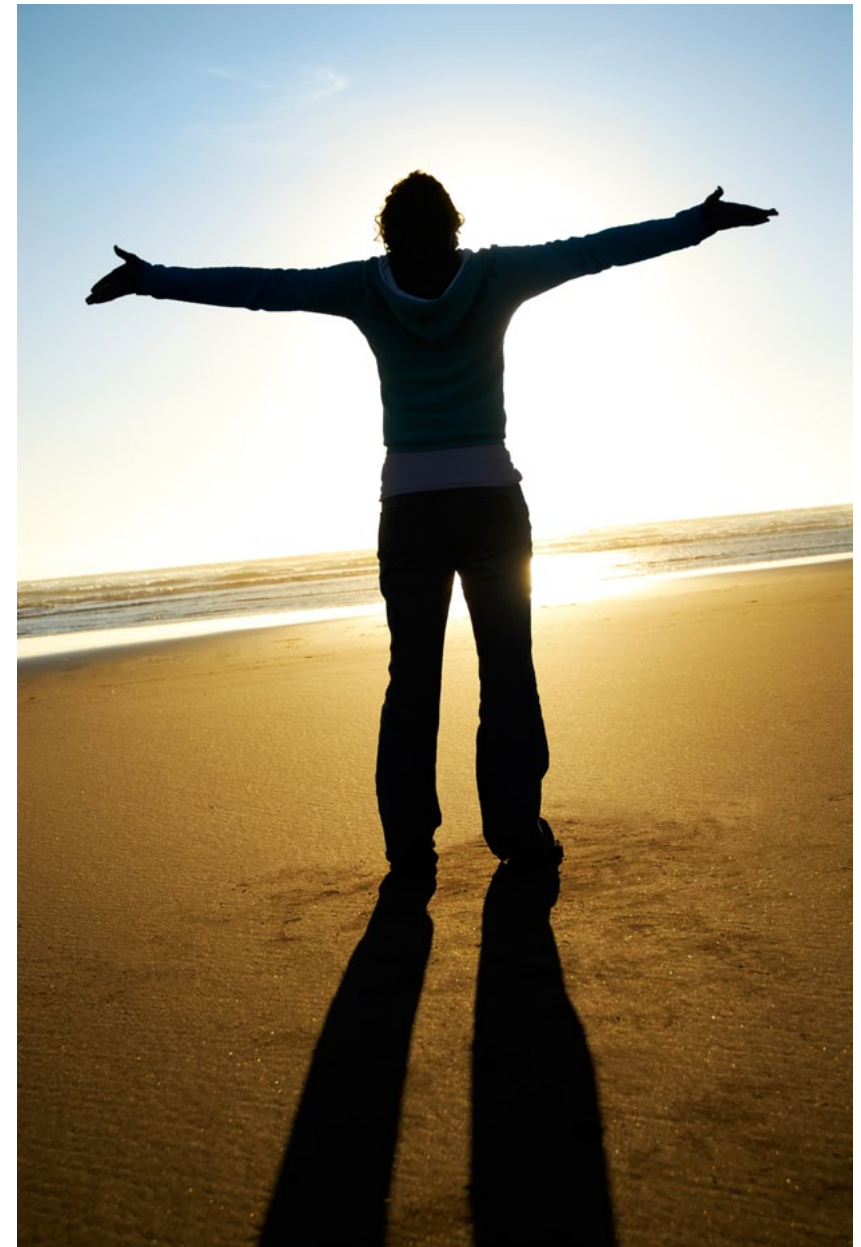
### Microstock Sites

[Religion @ bigstock.com](http://Religion @ bigstock.com)

Travel search results from their microstock collection

[Faith @ 123rf](http://Faith @ 123rf)

Faith image results from 123rf



# GLOSSARY

## Terms and Jargon - here's a little help

- **Key Terminology: "Copyright Free Images?"**  
Very few photos are copyright free, only PD photos have no copyright attached. In most all other cases the original photographer still owns the copyright over the image because they created it. That does not mean that you can't use the image, but in order to use any image you need a license to do so. In the case of free and creative commons images the license is given away with no charge, in the case of paid "stock photography" then you need to pay for the license depending on what use you make of the image. When you buy a stock photo you are not buying the copyright of it, you are simply buying a license to use the image.
- **Stock Photo**  
A stock photo is simply an "off the shelf" image that was taken with the intention of being reused in a design, web site etc, this compared to having someone take a custom photo for you. Stock photos can be obtained either free or by purchase. The term stock photo is used to differentiate these images from those which were taken as artworks, or for documentary or editorial purposes.
- **PD**  
Public domain images, images that have been made available for free use and have no terms attached, typically the choice of subjects and image resolution or quality is limited - there's no such thing as a free lunch!
- **License**  
The terms which you agree to when you 'buy' an image for use, these typically prohibit you from reselling the image or using it in certain predefined ways, as stated above then you 'buy' an image you are in fact buying a license to use it, you are not buying the copyright of the image, a common misunderstanding amongst amateur image buyers. Licenses vary from site to site so always check you can use the image in the way you intend. There are two main license types in stock photography Rights Managed (RM) and Royalty Free (RF) [More about stock photo license types on our website](#)
- **Creative Commons**  
A system of licenses which allows photographers to provide their work for free under certain well defined conditions, these typically exclude the image being used in commercial applications and ALWAYS stipulate that the photographer be attributed where the pictures are used. Many photographers use creative commons as a way of promoting their work in front of a wider audience.

- [Microstock](#)

A term applied to Royalty free stock photo agencies who source their images from not just professional photographers but also amateurs via a strictly controlled review process. Microstock sites are a marketplace for 1000's of photographers to sell their work to you, but buyers only need to deal with the agency itself. Most sites allow you to buy credits that afford you a number of downloads of varying resolutions, most also sell vector illustrations and some sell stock footage (video).

- Resolution

Strictly speaking the term refers to how many pixels (the smallest elements of a digital image) are displayed or printed in a defined area (i.e. 300 dots per inch - 300dpi) but the term is often used to refer to the dimensions of an image in pixels e.g. 1200x1600 pixels. The higher the number of pixels the larger you will be able to print or display the image without losing quality.

- [Subscription Images](#)

You pay a monthly or annual fee to access a pre defined number of photos as you need them, this works out cheaper if you need images on a regular basis.

- Editorial Photo

This term is usually applied to images of events or celebrities, they have special license terms applied to them, they normally cannot be used in advertising or promotional material.

- Extended License

A term used by stock agencies to allow images to be used in more applications than normally allowed e.g. to resell a photo as a derivative product like a framed print, website template, poster etc. then you need to buy an extended license or merchandise license, these cost more than standard royalty free licenses.

- Royalty Free (RF)

Stock photos which are supplied for unlimited use (within the license terms which do sometimes include restrictions) are called royalty free because you do not pay a royalty each time the image is used or how many times it is displayed. Microstock images are sold as RF.



- Rights Managed (RM)

Rights managed is usually the most expensive way to buy stock photos, but has some key benefits in exclusivity, as rights managed images are strictly controlled, you pay to use them on a per use basis e.g. on the front of 10,000 copies of a magazine, or on the front page of a web site for 1 year.

- Attribution / Credit Link

An attribution or credit is a piece of text or web link displayed alongside an image when you use it, unless used in editorial applications paid stock images almost never require a credit. Conversely a large majority of free stock photo licenses stipulate some kind of 'credit' as do all creative commons licenses, in this case you can think of the attribution being made in lieu of payment to the photographer. If you use the images without making the credit then you will be breaking the terms of the license leaving you open to legal action - a pitfall a lot of people fall into when they simply download a photo they see in the internet and use it.

## STAY UP TO DATE

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Discover all the latest stock photo industry news, discount coupons and receive updates to this document as they are published.

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We **really do appreciate** any feedback you have about this document, let us know anything you would like to see included.

Think we have missed a site from the list? then [let us know](#)

Document revision 12D

