A lot of the advocacy that CIS does on 'openness' rests on Open Licensing, especially of content, software, standards, and data). Open Educational Resources, Open Access to Scholarly Literature, Open Video, and other such 'content' depends on open content licences, and Creative Commons is the most widely-used system for open content licences, while the GNU General Public Licence is the most widely-used licence for software.

 is a non-profit that helps sharing + reuse of creativity & knowledge via free legal and technological tools. These tools are not alternatives to copyright laws, rather they work alongside them.

CC allows you to easily give people the right to share or even build upon your work. While the traditional copyright system defaults to "all rights reserved", CC allows you to reserve only those rights that you want.

License types

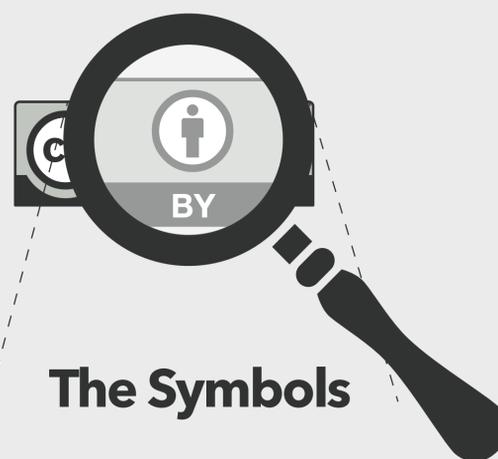|	
	ATTRIBUTION CC BY
	ATTRIBUTION - SHAREALIKE CC BY - SA
	ATTRIBUTION - NO DERIVATIVES CC BY ND
	ATTRIBUTION - NON COMMERCIAL CC BY - ND
	ATTRIBUTION - NON COMMERCIAL - SHAREALIKE CC BY - NC - SA
	ATTRIBUTION - NON COMMERCIAL - NO DERIVATIVES CC BY - NC - ND
	PUBLIC DOMAIN CC - Zero

This is not a 'licence', but a 'public domain declation', in which you give up all copyright (but retain 'moral rights' if you can't give them up in your legal jurisdiction), and allow people to make any kind of use of the work without conditions.

The Symbols

ATTRIBUTION
Requires acknowledgement of the author / source (this is a necessary part of all the six licences)

NON COMMERCIAL
Usage is allowed only for non-commercial purposes.

SHARE-ALIKE
Usage is allowed only if the work for which it is used is licensed under the same 'open' licence.

NO DERIVATIVE
Creating 'derivatives' is not allowed.

CIS is now a legal affiliate of CC, and Pranesh Prakash has taken over from Lawrence Liang as the CC - India Legal Lead.

 ## ACCESS TO SCHOLARLY LITERATURE

Academics and researchers don't get paid to publish in scholarly journals, but they (and their institutions) have to pay exorbitant amounts to access those journals. Open Access is a movement to enable free access to these scholarly writings (and the data underlying them) both without charge ("gratis OA") and for reuse without permission ("libre OA").

CIS has published a study on Open Access in India mapping the growth of OA and the problems it still faces, and has held workshops to promote OA and is going to produce legal analysis to help open up research borne of government funding. Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam, a distinguished fellow at CIS, is one of the world's leading open access activists.

Linked to Open Access is Open Educational Resources (OER), in which the object of 'openness' are different, but many of the motivations are the same. OER enable OERs can also be a A lecturer at the University of Ghana, Medical College developed a simple procedure for a Caesarian section and video-taped it. It is now being used in the Netherlands. Similarly a lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, who also happens to be a world authority on the buruli ulcer has developed an OER module which is being used by the World Health Organisation and the University of Michigan.

 OPENNESS Innovation and creativity are fostered through openness and collaboration. The advent of the Internet radically defined what it means to be open and collaborative. The Internet itself is built upon open standards and free/libre/open source software.