**I Reveal the Best 8 Public Domain Sources You Can Access Online During Lockdown**

As a special download this month, I have created a list of the very best sources of images that you could use to create your own products to sell online.

1. **FLICKR**

Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/>) is one of the largest photographic image sites on the Internet. Established as a site for online photo management, it’s now evolved into one of the biggest sharing applications in the world. Many uploaders mark their work as ‘CC0’ – freely available in the public domain. Flickr’s public domain search menu (see below) has myriad images for use without impunity. Do check individual photos to confirm free license, as photographers can (& frequently do) change licenses for sets or individual photos.

The UK National Archives has an account on Flickr, with over 20,000 photos from the history of the UK and Commonwealth countries. Go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalarchives/>

The National Library of Ireland also has a fantastic Flickr page with around 1,300 photos of Ireland's history, many of which are in the public domain and can be found here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nlireland/>

1. **MUSEUMS**

The British Library use Flickr too. In 2013, they took 1,000,000 images that were in the public domain, free to reuse and remix, and put them online. They were taken mostly from illustrations in 17th, 18th and 19th Century books. They encompass a vast array of subjects, from maps and etchings to calligraphy and decorative motifs. You can see the entire selection here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary>

The Smithsonian has very recently followed suit. For the first time in its 174-year history, they have released 2.8 million high-resolution two- and three-dimensional images from across its collections onto an open access online platform for patrons to peruse and download free of charge. Featuring data and material from all 19 Smithsonian museums, nine research centres, libraries, archives and the National Zoo, the new digital depot encourages the public to not just view its contents, but use, reuse and transform them into just about anything they choose. Throughout the rest of 2020, the Smithsonian will be rolling out another 200,000 or so images, with more to come as the Institution continues to digitise its collection of 155 million items and counting.

Go to <https://www.si.edu/openaccess>

Similarly, the Rijksmuseum in Holland has put some 125,000 high-resolution images into the public domain, with plans to add another 40,000 images per year until the entire collection of one million works is available. Digitised works are available free of restrictions, with the additional opportunity to create products using the images via their innovative [Rijkstudio](https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio) feature.

Go to <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio>

1. **RAWPIXEL**

[Rawpixel](https://www.rawpixel.com/) is one of the largest contributors of free photographs and images. Their site not only has a staggering amount of free images that they’ve collated from various sources, but also a huge Public Domain section in which they have sourced and digitally enhanced thousands of antique books and chromolithographic plates to unlock the inspirational design treasures of the past. You can find free high-resolution Creative Commons images of the work of lots of famous artists, including Van Gogh, Monet, Klimt, and Blake; as well as Japanese master printmakers and the intricate designs of William Morris and Co.

Go to: <https://www.rawpixel.com>

1. **TEXTUREGEN**

This is an image library with a difference – it supplies free ‘textures’ as quality, high-res images. A ‘texture’ is an image that can be used as a pictorial and interesting background, whether it’s wood, plaster, concrete, rust, metal, bricks, or any other textured surface. Go to <http://www.texturegen.com/>

For similar, also try Public Domain Textures <https://free-public-domain-textures.blogspot.com/>.

1. **PUBLIC DOMAIN VECTORS**

[PublicDomainVectors](https://publicdomainvectors.org/) offers copyright-free vector images in popular .eps, .svg, .ai and .cdr formats. You are free to edit, distribute and use the images for unlimited commercial purposes without asking permission. Go to: <https://publicdomainvectors.org/>

For more, try Vector Portal <https://www.vectorportal.com/> They create free stock vectors which you can use in commercial projects. They also distribute free vectors from other artists who want to showcase their work.

[Avopix](https://avopix.com/) is another image library with in excess of 56,000 photos and vector graphics, all available free for personal and commercial use, with no attribution required. <https://avopix.com/>

Another library of public domain clipart images in vector and raster format is [Clker](http://www.clker.com/) (http://www.clker.com/) Besides the extensive library to search through, they also provide a tool for creating your own vector images from an uploaded photo, as shown below…



1. **STOCK IMAGES**

There are many sites that offer stock images that you can take for free.

[FreeStockPhotos](http://www.freestockphotos.biz/) have a large stock photograph library. No payment or registration is needed and all images are in the public domain. It’s also a good source of clip art images, borders, frames and designs. Go to: <http://www.freestockphotos.biz/>

[Pixabay](https://pixabay.com/) (<https://pixabay.com/>) have over 1.7 million high-quality copyright-free stock images and videos shared by their community. They accept submissions from anyone, and every image is given the green light by a professional curator, based on technical quality and legal validity. All contents are released under the Pixabay License, which makes them safe to use without asking for permission or giving credit to the artist – even for commercial purposes.

[Pexels](https://www.pexels.com/) (<https://www.pexels.com/>) offers hundreds of thousands of royalty-free stock images and videos in high resolution. They even have cool add-ons on their site, apps and a Photoshop plugin.

Snappygoat ([Snappygoat.com](http://www.snappygoat.com/)) is a database of around 14 million images collated from multiple sources (Wikipedia Commons, Pixabay, Flickr, The British Library, to name just a few) – all freely available and usable without restrictions. No sign-up needed. There’s also a sister-site called [Free Images](http://www.free-images.com/) (<https://free-images.com/>) which has millions more free images from the public domain. Both websites have particularly good search engines.

[Imageric](https://imageric.com/) (<https://imageric.com/>) They offer a wide range of free stock images and videos, all licensed under Creative Commons, and categorised under a variety of topics, from abstract to wildlife and arts. They’re very on-trend – their homepage currently has lots of images regarding Covid-19, for example.

[Burst](https://burst.shopify.com/) (<https://burst.shopify.com/>) E-commerce platform Shopify created Burst in 2017, offering an extensive library of free public domain stock images intended commercial re-use.

[Photos8](https://photos8.com/) (<https://photos8.com/>) have over a hundred-thousand high-res photos, vectors and wallpapers, hand-selected for quality.

[Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/) (<https://unsplash.com/>) They have over a million free high-resolution images, shared by their generous community of photographers, hand-selected by the website curators, with a ‘cool and artsy’ vibe.

[Good Stock Photos](https://goodstock.photos/) (<https://goodstock.photos/>) is owned by Steven Ma, offering his own photos for commercial re-use. The library is a mix of everyday life situations, social-media-savvy shots, travel, landscapes, city scenes, and more.

[StockSnap](https://stocksnap.io/) (<https://stocksnap.io/>) is a library of free public domain images uploaded by users submissions.

[Fancy Crave](https://fancycrave.com/) (<https://fancycrave.com/>) is owned by commercial photographer Igor Ovsyannykov as a resource for his own and other professional photographers’ images, all free to download and use. It’s a heavily curated site, with a major focus on travel photography.

[ISO Republic](https://isorepublic.com/) (<https://isorepublic.com/>) contains collections both of stock-style high-res photos about popular subjects and more artsy and trendy pictures.

[FoodiesFeed](https://www.foodiesfeed.com/) (<https://www.foodiesfeed.com/>) is a free stock photo site offering photos of food, all in the public domain.

[Injurymap](https://www.injurymap.com/free-human-anatomy-illustrations) <https://www.injurymap.com/free-human-anatomy-illustrations> has a special niche – they provide free illustrations of the human anatomy, with the aim of increasing awareness of musculoskeletal injuries and treatment.

[StockVault](https://styledstock.co/) (<https://styledstock.co/>) offers free public domain photos in a ‘feminine’ style that’s a very modern, clean and minimalist look. It's not very clear who runs the site or who owns the photos, but it is clear they are free to download and use in commercial projects.

[Skitterphoto](https://skitterphoto.com/) (<https://skitterphoto.com/>) is an image library that was founded by a group of enthusiast photographers, offering thousands of files covering myriad subjects and topics, all ready to be downloaded for free.

[NegativeSpace](https://negativespace.co/) (<https://negativespace.co/>) collates trendy, free stock images from its many contributors, each portfolio being vetted for quality. after a process of portfolio submission and image review and are of very good quality for professional use.

[Picspree](https://picspree.com/en) (<https://picspree.com/en>) is a stock image library that’s backed by one of the most renowned (paid-for) companies in the industry, Getty Images. Their catalogue is comprised of high-res photos, illustrations and vectors, across lots of evergreen topics.

1. **VINTAGE ILLUSTRATIONS**

You could also consider taking your images and designs from old illustrations in books.

[Old Book Illustrations](https://www.oldbookillustrations.com/) (<https://www.oldbookillustrations.com/>) has illustrations from a large collection of books.

[From Old Books](https://www.fromoldbooks.org/) (<https://www.fromoldbooks.org/>) is a database of pictures, engravings illustrations and extracts from old, rare and antique books – more than 3,800 of them.

[Free Vintage Illustrations](https://freevintageillustrations.com/) (<https://freevintageillustrations.com/>) this focuses on vintage illustrations, mainly whimsical and sentimental watercolour illustrations of the 1930s to 50s, from antique books, postcards, and advertising ephemera.

[Reusable Art](http://www.reusableart.com/) (<http://www.reusableart.com/>) is a collection of vintage drawings, illustrations and photographs from books, magazines and other printed materials, all copyright-free.

[Karen's Whimsy](http://karenswhimsy.com/public-domain-images/) (<http://karenswhimsy.com/public-domain-images/>) offers scans of engravings and other artwork from a personal collection of old books, magazines, and post cards. They are all from material printed prior to 1923 and are in the public domain.

[The Graphics Fairy](https://thegraphicsfairy.com/) (<https://thegraphicsfairy.com/>) is a curated collection of over 6,000 vintage images, many scanned from the blog owner’s own collection of antique books, prints, postcards and trade cards.

[The Old Design Shop](https://olddesignshop.com/) (<https://olddesignshop.com/>) is also curated by a collector of vintage books and ephemera: a Photoshop enthusiast who loves to work with scans of vintage illustrations, and who’s happy to share them in the public domain.

[New Old Stock](https://nos.twnsnd.co/) (<https://nos.twnsnd.co/>) A collection of great vintage and historic photography, all freely available.

1. **COMICS and CARTOONS**

[The John Leech Archive](http://www.john-leech-archive.org.uk/) (http://www.john-leech-archive.org.uk/) draws on illustrations and cartoons from the first *Punch* magazine in 1841 until Leech’s death in 1864. They cover all sorts of interesting historical events including the Great Exhibition, the Crimean War, the Chartist Movement, changing fashions and changing attitudes to class, servants and women.

The [Pulp Magazines Project](https://www.pulpmags.org/) (<https://www.pulpmags.org/>) is an open-access archive and digital research initiative for the study and preservation of one of the 20th Century's most influential print culture forms: the all-fiction pulpwood magazine from 1896–1946.

[Comic Book Plus](https://comicbookplus.com/) (https://comicbookplus.com/) is an exhaustive list of ‘golden- and silver-age’ comic books, comic strips and pulp fiction. Everything is in the public domain.