Thank you for this opportunity.

I use images and videos from online sources to illustrate podcasts, slideshows, web pages, and videos I create for a non-profit organization. I make every effort to choose those images that are listed online as "free to use" "free to alter" "free to use commercially," etc. on sites such as open source, cc, flicker, google images, etc. Then, at the end of my video, slideshow or whatever, I give credits with thumbnails of the image beside the credit and source of the individual picture.

My question is can I trust that I am in compliance with copyright laws if these sites say that the picture is licensed in this way? Then, because of the nature of video, am I in compliance by putting the credits at the end of the video (usually I show in the opening sequence that credits for the images will be given at the end of the video, to be sure the viewer will be aware of this).

The use of such images is crucial to my work, as we are a small non-profit that would not be able to pay large royalty fees. However, I do want to be sure I am doing the right thing and that the owner of the image is giving permission.

The information available to the lay person about exactly what copyright laws apply to images online is hard to find, hard to interpret, and thus hard to know if you are in compliance.

Also, I still don't know what the dates are for copyrights on older works, printed material, photographic images of museum works, etc. Amplification of information available to lay people would go a long way, as many of us are eager to comply, but can't find a central understandable source, even on the Copyright Office's website that details these issues.

Again, thank you for this opportunity. Hopefully this effort will result in better compliance of all of us.