



Respecting Copyright Laws in the Development of BIM (GRICS) Evaluations



GRICS is a non-profit organization in service to the educational organizations. Even so, the copyright regulations for the use and distribution of text and images differ, in part, from those that apply to educational organizations. The evaluations developed for BIM, or in collaboration with the BIM team, must conform to specific requirements in order to comply with copyright law.

The Principles, in Brief

From the outset, any work can be protected by a license or be part of the public domain. Texts and images found in the public domain, as well as those created by the development teams, may be used and distributed by BIM (with attributed credit), otherwise, further inquiries need to be made.

Use of Text






BIM must obtain authorization from the author before using or distributing any text that is not in the public domain or created by the BIM team. It is the responsibility of the BIM team to obtain this authorization, though obtaining it is not assured and attempting to do so may require time.

For these reasons, all texts that are used in BIM evaluations must be clearly referenced (author and source). These texts could be:

- Original texts written by the development team;
- In the public domain;
- Published works (with a known source and author) for which the BIM team must then obtain authorization for use.

Use of Images

There are many types of licenses, the most familiar probably being the *Creative Commons* license. Below are some examples of licenses according to the *Creative Commons* model.

Logo	License	Implications for BIM
	Public Domain	Authorization to use and distribute the image without restrictions.
	CC – BY	Authorization to use and distribute the image, with credit to the author/artist.
	CC – BY – ND	Authorization to use and distribute the image, with credit to the author/artist. In this case, the image may not be modified.
	CC – BY – SA	It is not possible to use and distribute an image with the “Share Alike” or “Share with identical terms” attribute to the license.
	CC – BY – NC	It is not possible to use or distribute an image with the “Noncommercial” attribute to the license.

Images that are used in BIM evaluations must be clearly referenced (author and source). These images could be:

- Original works created by the development team
- In the public domain
- Under license CC – BY or CC – BY – ND identifying the author/artist and the source
- Rough sketches with clear and precise instructions so that it can be created by the BIM team’s graphic artist (should it be necessary to create a custom image).

Do not hesitate to contact members of the BIM team for any questions regarding copyright issues in the context of developing evaluations for BIM.

The BIM Team