With so much media available to download, resample, repurpose and transform, collage has become as common as sketching. This makes for an exciting time to create and a scary time to maintain control of your work. In this section we will look at ways to find media online, understand some of the legal issues concerning what you can and can NOT use, we will also identify resources to help you with both. You will also complete an exercise in using advanced search features through a Google search.

COPYRIGHT/FAIR USE
Determining how a piece of media is protected, and how you may use it is your job as an artist. Typically you can’t repurpose other people’s work, nor can you create derivative works made from them, unless:

- The particular use qualifies as "fair use,"
- The copyright has expired,
- It is part of the public domain, or
- The author licenses it under an alternative model like Creative Commons and you comply with the terms of the license.

If you believe something might fall under fair use or the work is not protected by copyright, it’s good practice to always credit the maker of any works you incorporate in your work.

ALWAYS CHECK ©
An Image does not have to have a copyright notice to be protected by copyright. Do you know the provenance of the image you’re about to use?

PUBLIC DOMAIN
Works which anyone may use for any reason because they are no longer protected by copyright.

FAIR USE
US copyright law allows for using brief excerpts of copyrighted material for certain uses without the need for permission or payment. These uses include criticism, reporting, research and teaching.

RESOURCES
There are many great sites which can help you understand these issues, find media to use and also places where you could (and should) contribute media for others.
COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.org
A repository of public domain and freely-licensed media content available to everyone.

CREATIVECOMMONS.org
Is an alternative system of copyright offering a range of licenses with degrees of control over whether derivative works and for-profit uses are allowed.

ADVANCED SEARCH
You may use Google to search quite regularly, but there are some great ways to do more targeted search.

YOU WILL NEED:
- Internet Access
- Your Notes

STEPS:
1. Open a Web browser (Safari or Chrome).
2. Go to Google.com and type “Public Domain” in the search field.
3. Click on the Images link. Now the search will only show you images.
4. Do you see the “Search Tools” button towards the right. There is an image below to help you find it. Click on it.
5. You are now offered menus to narrow your search even further. You can search for a specific type of images like line art or photos. You can specify images of a certain size in resolution (we’ll learn more on that in a later section). The color feature will even search for images that blend with the color you select.
6. Practice searching with different filters. Was this useful?

EXPECT ERRORS
When you search you have an idea of what you want to find. When you find things you weren’t looking for but that are interesting this is referred to as “stumble”. Look out for useful errors in your search results and enjoy them.
COMMON PLACE BOOK

Searching is a great research tool. Writers have a tradition of keeping a common place book like the example shown on the next page where they collect examples of work that impresses them. By noticing patterns in what they are drawn to writers begin developing their own style.

Tools like Apple’s iPhoto, Apple’s Aperture, or Adobe’s Lightroom make keeping a digital commonplace book easy for images. You can use add keyword to images for their content, style and qualities.

Unlike a physical common place book you can use the built in search feature iPhoto, Aperture, or Lightroom (depending on how you archive your images) to find reference material as you need it.

Searching with keywords rather than through folders can help you notice relationships between works that were not obvious.

Do you think a digital common place book would work for you? Try it and let us know if you find it useful.