

PD API / OKCon April 2010

- An API to provide Public Domain information
- <http://publicdomainworks.net/api>

Public Domain

- Variation per-country
- Dependant of the date of death of authors
- Lots of free material already online
- Sources for researchers, educational, etc
- Many times references are commercial sites

Bigger picture

- Publicdomainworks is part of the **Working Group on the Public Domain** of the Open Knowledge Foundation
- Local copyright research groups create **PD flowcharts** in each country
- More flowcharts are in process
- XML reasoner developed by Maarten Zeinsstra for Europeana

API query

```
{
  "work":
  {
    "date": "19030101",
    "persons": [
      {
        "birth_date": "18490101",
        "country": "uk",
        "death_date": "None",
        "type": "person",
        "name": "Boyle, James"
      }
    ],
    "creation_date": "19030101",
    "type": "text",
    "title": "Collected Papers on the Public Domain (ed)"
  },
  "jurisdiction": "uk",
  "when": "20310101"
}
```

- Supported jurisdictions by now: UK, Canada, US

API Result

```
{
  "result": {
    "death_dates": [
      [
        "Boyle, James",
        1949.0860730593606
      ]
    ],
    "pd_uncertainty": 0.0,
    "when": 2031.0,
    "log": [
      "Literary / musical work (not sound recording) (text)",
      "Author \"Boyle, James\" death date not given - \
      assuming died 100 years after birth (1849.08607306 + 100 = 1949.08607306)",
      "PD expires at \"death + 1st Jan + 70\" (1949.08607306 + 70 = 2020.0)"
    ],
    "pd_probability": 1.0
  }
}
```

- Accuracy / Probability
- Desition path

Next steps

- Lookup on our database to find out if we have more info to supplement user's input
- Provide information per-author/per-year etc.
- Nice snippets for users to link to works/authors from their webpages

Thanks!

- Location:
<http://www.publicdomainworks.net/api/>
- Public domain working group:
<http://wiki.okfn.org/wg/publicdomain/>
- Public Domain Works info:
<http://okfn.org/pdw>