



Towards a Recommendation on Open Cultural Heritage (TAROCH) Information Brief

What is TAROCH?

TAROCH is a Coalition of organizations and institutions dedicated to open cultural heritage who recognize the transformative power of open solutions and who share a vision of fair and equitable access to cultural heritage.

The mission of TAROCH is to encourage UNESCO Member States to draft and adopt a standard-setting instrument, such as a Recommendation, to promote open solutions that enhance access to public domain cultural heritage while respecting diverse governance frameworks for sharing and using cultural heritage.

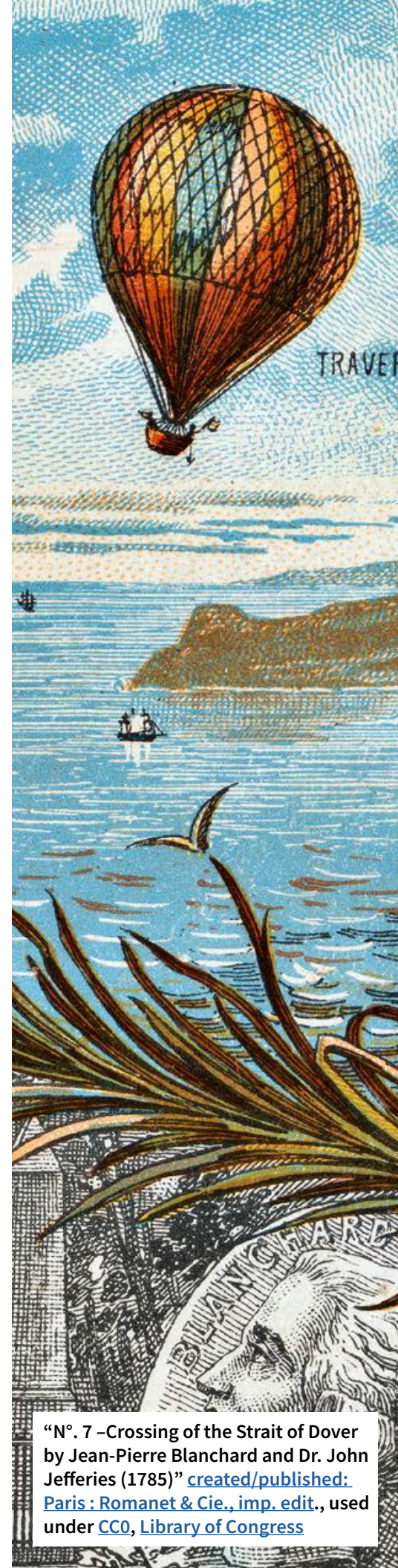
The ultimate outcome of a UNESCO Recommendation is that cultural heritage becomes equitably accessible to all. In alignment with UNESCO's mission and cultural and information policy, particularly in promoting intercultural dialogue and cultural exchange, TAROCH is contributing to more connected, resilient, and sustainable societies.

The TAROCH Secretariat

Creative Commons (CC) is the organization steering and funding TAROCH and serves as the TAROCH Coalition Chair. CC has the overall responsibility for delivering on TAROCH goals, and coordinates, resources, facilitates, and provides support to Coalition members.



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“N°. 7 –Crossing of the Strait of Dover by Jean-Pierre Blanchard and Dr. John Jefferies (1785)” [created/published: Paris : Romanet & Cie., imp. edit., used under CC0, Library of Congress](#)



The Importance of Open Access to Cultural Heritage

Members of the TAROCH Coalition believe that culture, including cultural heritage, provides the existential foundation of humanity and that open access can contribute to helping people around the world to:

- » Exercise their fundamental rights to participate in cultural life and enjoy the arts, as enshrined in Article 27(1) of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (1948) and Article 15 of the United Nations (UN) [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (1966).
- » Preserve and access documentary heritage including in digital form, as enshrined in the [2015 UNESCO Recommendation](#).
- » Activate the 2022 [Mondiacult Declaration](#) and enjoy culture, including cultural heritage, as well as the digital commons (in keeping with the [Global Digital Compact](#)) as global public goods.
- » Honor, promote, and preserve cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage as per the 2024 [UN Pact for the Future](#).
- » Benefit from a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient world by advancing the UN's [sustainable development goals](#) and leaving no one behind, including the recognition of [culture as a sustainable development goal](#) in and of itself.

Key Deliverables

The TAROCH Coalition aims to achieve the following by May 2026:

1. Develop and adopt a Statement on Open Access to Cultural Heritage for signature by civil society organizations and institutions.
2. Widely implement an advocacy strategy and disseminate tools and materials to promote wider recognition of open access to cultural heritage.

For More Information

- » Read the 2024 report, [Creative Commons strategic workshop reveals big opportunities for open access to cultural heritage](#).
- » Visit the [Open Culture web page](#).
- » Check out the [Open Culture Resources web page](#).

Join Us

Any organization or institution supporting the mission statement of the Coalition may apply for membership.

- » Read the [Statement of Commitment](#).
- » Submit your application through the [membership application form](#).

“N°. 5 – First aerial voyage by acquies Alexandre Charles and Nicolas-Louis Robert (1783)” [created/published: Paris : Romanet & Cie., imp. edit.](#), used under [CC0](#), [Library of Congress](#)