Beyond open access

“Experimental investigation of electrical domestic heat pumps equipped with a twin-stage oil-free radial compressor” is the first thesis published under a Creative Commons (CC) license at EPFL. After many years of research, Jean-Baptiste Carré gives access in 2015 to his whole PhD work under CC BY license and shows the numerous advantages of these licenses for research and researchers. Interview.

Mechanic engineer, J.-B. Carré holds a diploma from the Ecole d’ingénieurs arts et métiers ParisTech. He decides to continue his research at the EPFL on the development of machines in the energy field.

What was the subject of your EPFL thesis?
→ The Industrial Energy Systems Laboratory (LENI) was developing since the 2000s a new heart for machines that allows heating houses in an environmentally friendly way. My PhD thesis, achieved in collaboration with the Swiss industry, aimed to integrate this new heart in existing or pre-industrialized machines. The developed products are commercialized on the market of home heating machines.

Why did you choose to publish your thesis under a CC license?
→ I was using free softwares and licenses in my leisure time. I wanted my thesis and everything that was going to develop, like figures, data, graphics, etc., to be reused by everybody and that all my codes could be supported by open source softwares and bookshop.

Why didn’t you choose a non-commercial clause for your thesis?
→ He was not against as long as this would not have more chances, scientifically speaking, that someone understands what I am doing and cites me in another work or reuse it.

Which constraints did you face?
→ In my thesis script, I couldn’t put figures from scientific articles. I had to redo them from data or ask my colleagues to put their pictures under a CC license.

What are the advantages of publishing under a CC license?
→ The first advantage is an ethical one. I feel comfortable with my work. Everything is open, can be reproduced and verified.

Why did you publish your thesis on Authorea (see box)?
→ Authorea is a collaborative writing platform, on which it is possible to comment and open my ideas, or any other element disseminated in my thesis work, I would like it to be reused without any legal implications. Likewise, if a professor wants to use my work in a book or teaching, I wish him to do it easily.
discussions on my thesis. This particular aspect is interesting, because I like the fact that it is possible to increase knowledge anytime and that a public space for discussing exists.

Disseminate knowledge as much as possible, giving access to basic knowledge allows us to emancipate oneself. Thanks to Authorea, anyone, and particularly EPFL researchers who will continue my work, can ask questions on unclear sections, criticize the conclusions or the work.

**What are your projects?**

→ I am working at the Haute Ecole d’ingénieurs in Yverdon. I am collaborating in projects on technologies related to the ones developed in my thesis, in collaboration with EPFL. The data I was producing during my thesis were for my own use. Now I am working with other people who need to use those documents for their researches. It implies to set up other working procedures, that are far above licenses and that require good practices to be able to collaborate. This is one of the aspects I like to explore in the work I am currently doing and aspects on license and reuse are central to this approach. –

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**Some numbers**

→ 2013: platform birth

→ 50'000: active users, 126 EPFL accounts

→ 3300: articles created (among which 1300 public ones)

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**Contact**

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