

Why is open access on our OLA- IFC site?

OLA-Intellectual Freedom Committee is committed to supporting all efforts to provide the public with a variety of viewpoints on any topic to give our users the opportunity to read/view on subjects of interest to them

Open Access champions Intellectual Freedom world-wide. Its goal is to provide access to scholarly materials without cost to any who wish to view the content. Its purpose is to promote critical thinking and creativity through exposure to a wide variety of viewpoints in all artistic, social science and scientific arenas and mediums. Universities around the world are contributing to this venture by developing Institutional Repositories (IR) of unique collections of research reports & articles, digital image & video collections and making their collections available electronically at no charge.

- Open Educational Resources (UMass Amherst Libraries) <http://guides.library.umass.edu/content.php?pid=87648&sid=652168>
- Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://www.doaj.org/>) provides a search site to access journals which provide free articles on scholarly subjects and current research.
- PLoS (Public Library of Science <http://www.plos.org/#3>) an open access publisher and advocate for open access. Site includes access to their open access journals.
- [Sample University Open Access Policies](#) maintained by Simmons College, Boston, MA. Main page includes a directory for additional resources and information on Open Access.

The Following Is Taken from the [Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities](#)

Open access contributions include original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials and scholarly multimedia material.

Open access contributions must satisfy two conditions:

1. The author(s) and right holder(s) of such contributions grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship (community standards will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now), as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.
2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in an appropriate standard electronic format is deposited (and thus published) in at least one online repository using suitable technical standards (such as the Open Archive definitions) that is supported and maintained by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, inter operability, and long-term archiving.

OPEN ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Open access also includes the right of the public to have access to information created and held by our government. Having open access to government records promotes transparency and accountability in government, and encourages public participation in civic and government organizations. Intellectual freedom requires this openness and transparency of our governing institutions.

The following watchdog groups are central to promoting transparency on the federal and state level:

- OpenTheGovernment.org – Americans for Less Secrecy, More Democracy
<http://www.openthegovernment.org/>
- Open Oregon – A Freedom of Information Coalition
<http://www.open-oregon.com/>

Libraries support open access to government information on several levels. Libraries provide direct access to this information through the **federal depository library system**, as well as through **CyberCemetery**, an archive of government web sites that have ceased operation. Public libraries provide access to online government information to the many thousands of library users who access the Internet on library computers. The library community is also a source of advocacy in support of sunshine laws and other practices that promote open government.

The Definition of Intellectual Freedom (American Library Association)

Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause, or movement may be explored.