

Resolution in Support of Open Educational Resources

Whereas “open educational resources are teaching, learning, and research materials [that are] in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation, and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions¹”; and

Whereas open educational resources support equitable access to education by removing financial barriers related to the purchase or rental of required textbooks and other teaching and learning resources; and

Whereas some critics of open educational resources mistakenly imply that these resources are of lower quality because students do not pay for them or may not be sponsored by a major publishing concern; and

Whereas library workers and organizations have a long history of supporting open scholarship and other aspects of open education through the development of statements and toolkits²; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA):

1. affirms that open educational resources can be as effective, authoritative, and of academically rigorous quality as traditionally published learning materials;
2. encourages library workers to support initiatives that promote the creation, discovery, dissemination, awareness, and preservation of open educational resources; and
3. encourages library workers to advocate for initiatives at all levels of government that support open educational resources.

1. [Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#),” UNESCO.

2. [ACRL Policy Statement on Open Access to Scholarship by Academic Librarians](#),” ACRL, approved June 2016 by the ACRL Board of Directors; revised April 2019; “ACRL/CJCLS OER Librarian Toolkit,” ACRL, April 29, 2021, <https://acrl.libguides.com/cjcls/oer>; “[Open Education](#),” SPARC; [Open Educational Resources Toolkit](#),” AASL, November 2019.

“Resolution in Support of Open Educational Resources” was approved by the Committee on Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Committee. The resolution is endorsed by the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee and Intellectual Freedom Round Table. It is endorsed in principle by the Committee on Professional Ethics. The resolved clauses were adopted June 29, 2021, by ALA Council.