The Open Ethos and Academic Libraries

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Purpose

• Why we should view academic libraries from a perspective of openness
• Identify opportunities to promote openness
• Explore the openness theme in terms of library relevance/perception
Overview

- What is Open?
- A Few Open Milestones
- Openness and Academic Libraries
- Exemplifying Openness
- Some Limitations and Critiques
What is Open?

• Aspects of Openness
  – Access
  – Reuse/Remix
  – Participation
  – Transparency

• Definitions
Ten years on from the Budapest Open Access Initiative: setting the default to open

Prologue: The Budapest Open Access Initiative after 10 years

Ten years ago the Budapest Open Access Initiative launched a worldwide campaign for open access (OA) to all new peer-reviewed research. It didn’t invent the idea of OA. On the contrary, it deliberately drew together existing projects to explore how they might “work together to achieve broader, deeper, and faster success.” But the BOAI was the first initiative to use the term “open access” for this purpose; the first to articulate a public definition, the first to propose complementary strategies for realizing OA, the first to generalize the call for OA to all disciplines and countries, and the first to be accompanied by significant funding.

Today we’re no longer at the beginning of this worldwide campaign, and not yet at the end. We’re solidly in the middle, and drawn upon a decade of experience in order to make new recommendations for the next ten years.

We reaffirm the BOAI “statement of principle, ... statement of strategy, and ... statement of commitment.” We reaffirm the aspiration to achieve this “unprecedented public good” and to “accelerate research, enrich education, share the learning of the rich with the poor and the poor with the rich, make this literature as useful as it can be, and lay the foundation for uniting humanity in a common intellectual conversation and quest for knowledge.”

We reaffirm our confidence that “the goal is attainable and not merely preferable or utopian.” Nothing from the last ten years has made the goal less attainable. On the contrary, OA is well-established and growing in every field. We have more than a decade’s worth of practical wisdom on how to implement OA. The technical, economic, and legal feasibility of OA are well-tested and well-documented.
The **Open Definition** sets out principles that define “openness” in relation to **data and content**.

It makes **precise** the meaning of “open” in the terms “**open data**” and “**open content**” and thereby ensures **interoperability** between different pools of open material.

It can be summed up in the statement that:

“A piece of data or content is open if **anyone** is **free to use, reuse, and redistribute** it — subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike.”

[opendefinition.org](http://opendefinition.org)
openglam.org/principles

OpenGLAM Principles

v.1.0.

Note. This is the fourth version of the OpenGLAM principles which we have drafted together with the OpenGLAM Working Group. We would like this to be a community effort so please give feedback on the OpenGLAM mailing list!

Galleries, libraries, archives and museums have a fundamental role in supporting the advance of humanity’s knowledge. They are the custodians of our cultural heritage and in their collections they hold the record of humankind.

The internet presents cultural heritage institutions with an unprecedented opportunity to engage global audiences and make their collections more discoverable and connected than ever, allowing users not only to enjoy the riches of the world’s memory institutions, but also to contribute, participate and share.

We believe that cultural institutions that take steps to open up their collections and metadata stand to benefit from these opportunities.

When we say that digital content or data is “open” we mean that it complies with the Open Definition, which can be summed up in the statement that:

“A piece of data or content is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it — subject only, at most, to the requirement to give credit to the author and/or making any resulting work available under the same terms as the original work.”

The first step to make a collection open is to apply an open license, but that is where the story begins. Openness to collaboration and to novel forms of user engagement are essential if cultural heritage
Open Milestones

• 1665- Philosophical Transactions
• 1810- University of Berlin
• 1876- Johns Hopkins, ALA founded
• Post WWII- Research funding, Open Society
• 1998- Open Source movement
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) is a public land-grant university serving the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world community. The discovery and dissemination of new knowledge are central to its mission. Through its focus on teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement, the university creates, conveys, and applies knowledge to expand personal growth and opportunity, advance social and community development, foster economic competitiveness, and improve the quality of life.
We are “explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.”
Openness and Academic Libraries

- Remove price barrier
- Access to the stacks
- Interlibrary cooperation
- Accessibility
- Censorship
- Privacy
Openness and Academic Libraries

- Open Access
- Open Data
- Open Educational Resources
- Information Literacy
- Fair Use and Open Licensing
- Hackathons/Editathons
- Partnerships
• Knowledge creation
• Licensing
• Citing
• Linking to
  - Library resources
  - Open Access
  - Labeling
Wikipedia:WikiProject Open Access/Signalling OA-ness

This page is about how Wikipedia pages could signal to readers whether a particular reference is open access or not. The main purpose of such signalling would be to spare them the disappointment of clicking through to the resource only to find out that they do not have access rights to read it. The scheme is also useful for Wikipedia editors who can see at a glance whether a given reference would be licensed in a way that allows for the images, media or even text to be reused in Wikipedia articles.

1 Definition
2 CC BY icons
3 Existing Open Access icons
4 Signal individual rights differently
5 Existing initiatives around the CC BY literature
6 Colors
7 Ways to signal OA-ness on the English Wikipedia
8 Practical issues
9 Participants

Definition [edit source]

By "open access" to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.
Information Literacy

• ACRL report on intersections with scholarly communication
• “strategic realignment for library resilience”
Open formats, what for?

So that users might read my documents unhindered

Users exchanging reports.

CLOSED FORMAT IDENTICAL SOFTWARE

Alice uses the software program "Carano!" She records her report in a closed format (one that does not permit interoperability), then sends it to Bob, who has the same software program. He can read the document, modify it, and send it back to Alice.

PROGRAMS WITH CLOSED FORMATS, DIFFERENT SOFTWARE

The following day, Alice sends her report to Albert. He doesn’t have the same software program, which refuses to open the document. Albert has no other choice but to acquire the Carano software used by Alice, with the hope it is compatible with his computer.

PROGRAMS WITH OPEN FORMATS, DIFFERENT SOFTWARE

Carole, another user, chooses to record her report in open format (allowing for interoperability) and sends it to David. David can read the document, modify and record it, either by using the same open format software or by using another interoperable software.

To ensure the longevity of my documents

Alice and Carole use text editors to write, save, and preserve a novel.

CLOSED FORMAT

Alice buys an initial text-editing program, “Carano!” She saves her novel in a closed format that only that software program will be able to read.

After a few years, Carano is no longer available. Its format is also closed. If Alice has not saved a service of the software program, she is no longer able to read her novel. It is lost.

OPEN FORMAT

Carole downloads a Free Software text-editing program, which saves her novel in a free format (which allows interoperability).

A few years later, Carano is no longer available. The format is also closed. However, Carole is able to load her novel with any other software program capable of reading this format.

https://www.april.org/en/open-formats
Exemplifying Openness

- Open metadata
- Open licensing
- Open source
- Transparency
- Open Access policy
- Changing P&T guidelines
Beyond the Library

• Consortia
  – Non-disclosure agreements
  – Green archiving
  – Transition to funding OA publishing

• Library associations
  – Open access
  – Open licensing
Critiques and Limitations

• Openness in itself isn’t sufficient
• Open or Closed?
• Priority claims
Limits to Openness

• Technical
• Language
• Accessibility
• Human/Cultural
Libraries can... 

- Define the meaning of open
- Influence the university
- Help change the default
- Help create knowledge
How students see the library
How faculty see the library

Wallet – Money by 401(K) 2013, available under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license on Flickr
Why an openness theme?

- Redefine library relevance
- Efficiency
- Trust
- Engagement
Is a comprehensive approach to openness useful for libraries?

If so, can it be communicated in a way that enhances library relevance and changes user perceptions?

Thanks!
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Open@VT blog https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/openvt