# Open Access Resources

**Definition**: Resources that are freely available for viewing and/or use.

**Goal:** Develop a list of resources for libraries to get started with the following checklists for recommendations:

1. Standards
2. Maintenance
3. Discoverability

## Standards

Checklist for the evaluation criteria for electronic resource selection:

***Accuracy***: Is the information error-free? Are the sources clearly identified and presented to the user?

***Additional linked resources***: Are hyperlinks present? If so, are they working? Is it explicit when the user is leaving the resource site to connect to another website?

***Authority***: Who is responsible for creating, compiling, or publishing the content?

***Currency***: Is the resource updated regularly?

***Quality***: Is the resource organized in an effective way? Does it contain features such as directories, indexes, browse functions, or user assistance functionality?

***Transparency*:** If you must enter an email or sign-up for an account, is it free? Does the user have full access to the resource, or are they prompted for payment for full-access use?

## Maintenance

Checklist for maintenance of open access resources:

***Broken links*:** Take time to check for broken links for the resource itself.

***Last updated*:** When was the last time the website was updated? Or content/articles available in the resource?

***Need for resource*:** Is this resource still needed for your library users?

## Discoverability

Checklist for discoverability of open access resources:

***Integration*:** Can the resources be turned on in EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) for integration into the Aspen catalog?

***Placards*:** Can this be turned into a placard for placement in the Aspen catalog?

***Library website*:** Resources should live with where other Electronic Resources are. Should be clearly defined that login information or library card is not necessary for access.