

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:

- I. Standards
- II. Maintenance
- III. 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.