



IFLA Statements on Open Access

IFLA Statement on Open Access to Scholarly Literature and Research Documentation (2004)

IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is committed to ensuring the widest possible access to information for all peoples in accordance with the principles expressed in the Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom. IFLA acknowledges that the discovery, contention, elaboration and application of research in all fields will enhance progress, sustainability and human well being. Peer reviewed scholarly literature is a vital element in the processes of research and scholarship. It is supported by a range of research documentation, which includes pre-prints, technical reports and records of research data. IFLA declares that the world-wide network of library and information services provides access to past, present and future scholarly literature and research documentation; ensures its preservation; assists users in discovery and use; and offers educational programs to enable users to develop lifelong literacies. IFLA affirms that comprehensive open access to scholarly literature and research documentation is vital to the understanding of our



world and to the identification of solutions to global challenges and particularly the reduction of information inequality. Open access guarantees the integrity of the system of scholarly communication by ensuring that all research and scholarship will be available in perpetuity for unrestricted examination and, where relevant, elaboration or refutation. IFLA recognises the important roles played by all involved in the recording and dissemination of research, including authors, editors, publishers, libraries and institutions, and advocates the adoption of the following open access principles in order to ensure the widest possible availability of scholarly literature and research documentation:

1. **Acknowledgement** and defence of the moral rights of authors, especially the rights of attribution and integrity.
2. **Adoption** of effective peer review processes to assure the quality of scholarly literature irrespective of mode of publication.
3. **Resolute opposition** to governmental, commercial or institutional censorship of the publications deriving from research and scholarship.
4. **Succession** to the public domain of all scholarly literature and research documentation at the expiration of the limited period of copyright protection provided by law, which period should be limited to a reasonable time, and the exercise of fair use provisions, unhindered by technological or other constraints, to ensure ready access by researchers and the general public during the period of protection.
5. **Implementation** of measures to overcome information inequality by enabling both publication of quality assured scholarly literature and research documentation by researchers and scholars who may be disadvantaged, and also ensuring effective

and affordable access for the peoples of developing nations and all who experience disadvantage including the disabled.

6. **Support** for collaborative initiatives to develop sustainable open access* publishing models and facilities including encouragement, such as the removal of contractual obstacles, for authors to make scholarly literature and research documentation available without charge.
7. **Implementation** of legal, contractual and technical mechanisms to ensure the preservation and perpetual availability, usability and authenticity of all scholarly literature and research documentation.

This statement was adopted by the Governing Board of IFLA at its meeting in The Hague on 5th December 2003.



Definition of open access publication

An open access publication is one that meets the following two conditions:

1. The author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, world-wide, perpetual (for the lifetime of the applicable copyright) right of access to, and a licence to copy, use, distribute, perform and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works in any digital medium for any reasonable purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship, 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 a suitable standard electronic format is deposited immediately upon initial publication in at least one online repository that is supported by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organisation that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving.

An open access publication is a property of individual works, not necessarily of journals or of publishers.

Community standards, rather than copyright law, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now.

This definition of open access publication has been taken from A Position statement by the Wellcome Trust in support of open access publishing and was based on the definition arrived at by delegates who attended a meeting on open access publishing convened by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in July 2003.

Original version:

<http://archive.ifla.org/V/cdoc/open-access04.html>



IFLA Statement on open access – clarifying IFLA’s position and strategy (2010)¹

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is committed to the principles of freedom of access to information and the belief that universal and equitable access to information is vital for the social, educational, cultural, democratic, and economic well-being of people, communities, and organizations. Open access is the now known name for a concept, a movement and a business model whose goal is to provide free access and re-use of scientific knowledge in the form of research articles, monographs, data and related materials. Open access does this by shifting today’s prevalent business models of after-publication payment by subscribers to a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access. Thus, open access is an essential issue within IFLA’s information agenda.

Definition of open access

As an initial action, IFLA has signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. IFLA adheres to the definition of open access used in the Berlin Declaration and will use it in public communication and contacts with various organizations.²

¹A resolution to the IFLA General Assembly on August 14, 2010, called on IFLA to clarify its position on open access and to develop a strategy for action. This task was commissioned to the President’s Working Group for Open Access by the Professional Board.

²**Definition of an Open Access Contribution**

Establishing open access as a worthwhile procedure ideally requires the active commitment of each and every individual producer of scientific knowledge and holder of cultural heritage. Open access contributions include original scientific research

A clear focus on the access issue

IFLA acknowledges that there are a number of worthwhile objectives, besides open access, concerning the development of the system of scientific and scholarly communication, such as

- implementing a rigorous system for the control of scientific quality;
- providing long-term preservation of research information;
- safeguarding freedom from censorship;
- offering efficient and user-friendly services;
- fostering activities that support "information literacy";

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."

- expanding bandwidth and other essential infrastructure that underlies robust access to information.

There is a positive synergy between promoting open access and pursuing these other essential objectives, and IFLA supports a number of activities related to them; however, they are not identical to open access as herein defined, and neither requires the other. IFLA will promote open access with a clear focus on the access issue.

The current model does not guarantee access and is not sustainable

As the rate and amount of research publication in various forms is rapidly expanding, the current predominant scholarly communication model – via scholarly journals subscriptions – is hardly sustainable and not working effectively in the interests of the global community. Scholarly journals are subject to rapid price escalations and there are no clear and consistent correlations between price, quality and impact. Even the most well endowed research library cannot afford to purchase all of the content requested by its faculty and students. The situation is even more critical for smaller college and universities and largely unacceptable for institutions in the developing world, with severely limited or no budgets. Existing development initiatives to some extent compensate for the lack of access to crucial information, but these initiatives are dependent on publisher decisions, which are made unilaterally. There is growing dissatisfaction among major players. Authors are concerned because their work is not seen by all their peers, they may not get the global recognition they seek, and often they continue, even unnecessarily, to transfer copyright, which limits the use and reuse of their own works. Readers cannot access

all the scholarly literature they need, and thus their research activities can be less effective. Society as a whole suffers from inefficient communication channels that prevent innovations and development. The widespread sharing of research results is an essential component of governments' investment in science. Faster and wider sharing of knowledge fuels the advancement of science and, accordingly, the return of health, economic, and social benefits back to the public. Not surprisingly, librarians have been amongst the most vocal advocates for open access.

The benefits of open access

There are significant gains to making research and research results available without financial, legal and technical barriers to access. Researchers benefit from increased visibility, usage and impact for their work. Open access helps to publicise institutions' research strengths. For publishers, open access brings maximum visibility, increased readership and impact for the contents; it means that a greatly improved dissemination service is being provided for research. Open access enhances the flow of knowledge between North and South and also between South and South.

Open access and the changing role of libraries

Libraries play an essential role in open access developments by their expertise in building infrastructure, in creating user-friendly services of high quality and in securing long-term access. Librarians have shown their support for open access by signing open access initiatives and petitions. They have educated faculty and administrators about evolving scholarly communication environment. Libraries have partnered with faculty and research managers to set up open access repositories and to help faculty and

students deposit their research outputs. Librarians have provided support in research data curation and sharing. They have helped scholarly publishers to publish open access journals and books, and they have worked with educators to produce open educational resources ensuring the quality of digital content, its reuse and sharing. Open access has thus changed the profile of academic and research libraries. National libraries are involved in developing national open access policies and supporting national research infrastructures and open access to cultural heritage. Public libraries disseminate open access content targeted for their users. And, according to the IFLA World Report 2010, the vast majority of library associations support open access.

Promoting open access in cooperating with international organizations

IFLA will work with global organizations and fora such as UN, UNESCO, WHO, WIPO, WSIS and others in promoting and advocating open access to publicly funded research, educational resources and cultural heritage. In its contacts and cooperation with these organizations, IFLA will explicitly state that open access in its authoritative meaning is required for the progress of science, the development of society and true citizenship. Open access will provide users with the access they desire and enable libraries to maximize their role, thus improving global health and human well-being.

Connecting to the open access movement

Open access to research, educational resources and research data is now a global movement. Many organizations are working towards this goal. IFLA will connect to these organizations, not duplicating

effort, but rather creating synergy. IFLA will establish partnerships with and provide support to organizations, programmes, initiatives and services that are promoting of Open Access, such as SPARC (US/Europe/Japan), COAR, OASPA, Bioline International & DOAJ, among others. IFLA will prepare joint statements with these organizations.

Working with the IFLA membership

Open access is a central pillar of IFLA's Strategic Plan 2010-2015 in which a whole-of-organisation approach is taken to integrating the issue into IFLA's current and proposed activities. IFLA will advise its member associations in regard to:

- promoting open access in national policies;
- stimulating library members to promote open access in their communities and to implement measures to enlarge the impact of open access;
- enriching the local and national information infrastructure in order to stimulate open access;
- assistance in the work for national policies regarding open access to knowledge, as well as to publicly funded research and cultural heritage;
- supporting organizations, programmes, initiatives and services that are working for the promotion of open access.

Together with partners as SPARC, EIFL and LIBER, IFLA will also provide its member associations with advocacy material and practical guidelines in line with the recommendations.

IFLA's publications will be open access

IFLA will develop a transition plan that specifies the steps to be taken to transform IFLA's publications into open access.



Original version: <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/news/documents/ifla-statement-on-open-access.pdf>

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ABSTRACT: In late 2003, the International Federation of Library Association adopted a statement in order to ensuring the widest possible access to information for all peoples. In 2010, IFLA revised its Statement and reaffirmed its support to the Open Access movement.

KEYWORDS: IFLA; Libraries; Open Access, Scholarly communication.

