

Open Library Badge – An incentive system for more openness in libraries

CRITERIA.

Legal notice: This is an unofficial translation of the Open Library Badge Criteria, see "Kriterien" from "Open Library Badge" project, License: CC BY 3.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/de/>, Changes: Translation, partial adjustment of hyperlinks to their English-language counterparts. Originally available at <https://badge.openbiblio.eu/kriterien/>. The translation was done on February 28th, 2023 by Markus Putnings (ORCID 0000-0002-6014-9048, ROR 00f7hpc57) with the help of ChatGPT Feb 13 version.

Contributing to open-source software

Developing, testing, documenting, translating, or financially supporting software under an open license.

The possibilities for promoting open-source software are diverse. Libraries that do not have IT resources can test, document, translate, or financially support existing software. Systematic feedback on errors or the creation of training materials supports the developers of open-source software.

[GitHub](#) and [GitLab](#) have established themselves as central platforms for open-source projects, where even small contributions to open-source projects can be recognized.

Proof: Code or public contributions to open-source projects on GitHub/GitLab and an entry in the list [BibsOnGitHub](#).

Usability for all people

Making your own website barrier-free.

Libraries should ensure the accessibility of websites, documents, software, and catalogs as well as buildings and workplaces for employees and users. We limit ourselves to the websites for this criterion, as their accessibility is easier to prove. Accessibility is legally required for information offers from public institutions of the federal and state governments by the [Barrierefreie-Informationstechnik-Verordnung \(BITV\)](#) and the equal opportunity laws of the states. A EU directive makes the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#), on which the BITV test is also based, mandatory for all public institutions (including municipal offers) from September 23, 2020 (for new offers already from September 23, 2019). An overview is provided by the [WCAG 2.0](#) at "Einfach für Alle" (Aktion Mensch). Nevertheless, implementation often still lags behind. Libraries that serve free access to knowledge should be pioneers here and implement accessibility as a role model.

Proof: As automated tests are only partially reliable, we additionally need a self-assessment. The following two criteria must be met in order for us to reasonably assume that the website is barrier-free:

1. The online quick test [WAVE](#) must not report any errors or warnings for the library's website. Please provide justification for exceptions.
2. In a [BITV/WCAG self-assessment](#), each check must be at least "rather fulfilled". Please perform a self-assessment and confirm that this is the case.

Promoting openness in personnel development

The library promotes openness as an aspect of its personnel development.

Openness is anchored as an aspect of personnel development in the library's mission statement. When filling positions, experience or involvement in areas such as Open Access, Open Science, Open Educational Resources, Open Data, or familiarity with Open Source Software is required in job postings. It is desirable to designate a person as responsible for establishing and implementing openness on the institution's homepage.

Proof: Link to the library's mission statement and a job advertisement from the last 5 years as a PDF.

Professional development opportunities

Offering internal and external information and training opportunities.

The library offers information events and professional development opportunities on openness topics in its own institution and/or as part of the training events of the parent organization (e.g., the university). A portion of the offerings is explicitly for employees as well as for external colleagues (e.g., from smaller libraries on-site). The training serves for information, and beyond that, it offers employees the opportunity for active experience and participation. Therefore, training is offered, such as for Open Source Software and tools. The library creates opportunities for internal exchanges on openness topics. Employees have the opportunity to participate in external events.

Proof: Links to public professional development offerings. The announcement of the event contains an invitation to external colleagues; external organizations are specifically addressed and informed about the offering.

Enable text and data mining

The library allows its users to perform text and data mining on their own and licensed collections. In license agreements, it generally negotiates the right to text and data mining and it informs users accordingly.

Since March 2018, Germany has had a [uniform statutory exception for text or data mining](#) in the scientific context. Scientific libraries can inform their users about it, provide interfaces for their own collections and explicitly negotiate further usage rights for university members in license agreements. This corresponds to the guidelines pursued by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) in licensing specialist information services (cf. [sample license text of the FID licenses](#)).

Proof: Public website of the library addressing text and data mining.

Establish cost transparency for acquisitions

The library makes information about its acquisition budget publicly accessible in terms of open government data.

In addition to the established mechanisms of the German Library Statistics (Deutsche Bibliotheksstatistik, DBS), there is a great need for information on the use of funds in libraries, especially with regard to license agreements with the large, market-dominant publishers or

booksellers and with regard to the costs of open access publications. The disclosure of these costs contributes to greater transparency of the media market and the transition to open access models.

Proof: Participation in the [DBS](#) and beyond: Public page or data record(s) at [GovData](#), with further information on the acquisition budget. These can be:

- Expenditures for conventional license agreements for electronic media at the publisher level, as far as this is not prevented by non-disclosure agreements
- Expenditures for contracts that combine access to and open access publishing in electronic journals (Read and Publish, Offsetting or Transformation Contracts)
- Expenditures for article processing charges, ideally through participation in [OpenAPC](#)
- Expenditures for book processing charges
- Expenditures for cooperatively funded open access products such as [SCOAP3](#), [Open Library of Humanities](#), [Open Book Publishers](#).

Make open access resources visible

Integrate open access sources into local search systems and contribute to the better indexing of open access resources.

Suitable open access data sources are integrated into local search systems to improve the visibility of freely available content in library catalogs: This can include, for example, the local embedding of [DOAJ](#) to make OA journals visible and/or [DOAB](#) to make OA books visible. To improve visibility overall, the institution contributes to the content and/or formal indexing of open access resources, for example, in the form of indexing work on the consortium level.

Proof: Link to a website that breaks down the open access data sources that are included in local search systems.

Reveal open access potentials

The library supports the identification of open access potentials through advice in the field of open science and open educational resources.

There is a specific, individual advisory service that is user-friendly and integrated into the website. Corresponding tools such as [SherpaRomeo](#), [dissem.in](#), [ImpactStory](#), [re3data.org](#), [iMooX](#) or [oercommons](#) should be used. Alternatively, participation in a project in the field of open science and/or open educational resources can be proven.

Proof: Link to the website of the advisory service.

Teaching and learning materials under open license

Provide the library's teaching and learning materials for reuse and editing.

The library formulates in its Open Access policy the intention to publish teaching and learning materials of the library freely available for reuse and adaptation. It makes teaching and learning materials such as handouts, presentations, self-learning materials, and, if possible, also teaching videos, event recordings, etc. available under an open license. This should preferably be done through a suitable repository. The library informs its staff (as well as the staff of the institution) about opportunities to provide teaching and learning materials under an open license, and trains its staff

(as well as the staff of the institution) to create teaching and learning materials under an open license.

Proof: Links to teaching and learning materials of the library that are under an open license.

Integration of own and external users

In fulfilling its function as a service provider or within professional/regional networks, the library provides expertise and existing infrastructure for its own as well as external users.

This offer applies to its own user groups and/or external user groups (e.g. students/teachers, alumni, associations, refugees). The integration of users can take place in different forms, including the use of physical or virtual spaces, further education, discussions/surveys, or social tagging. Cooperations with other institutions for the implementation of joint projects (agreements with repair cafes, makerspaces, etc.) are in place. Surveys can, for example, concern the collection, advisory services or individual services.

Proof: It is publicly documented that the library has involved users in library processes in the last two years.

Publish the course of business

Document internal workflows and processes for reuse by other libraries.

Acquisition, cataloging or mediation processes are rarely formally documented and even more rarely published. However, other libraries could benefit from this by comparing their processes and potentially finding suggestions for improvements. This applies to the broad mass of business processes, not just for just newly introduced best-practice services. Ideally, the processes are described and possibly visualized in such a way that they are easily understandable even for outsiders. A short description is often helpful for specific topics. Many examples can be found on the international platform [Library Workflow Exchange](#).

Proof: Link to the library's website or public presentation where business processes are documented for reuse.

Support open knowledge communities

Organize community events in collaboration with Wikimedia or other knowledge communities or participate in projects to improve Wikipedia or Wikidata.

Community events: These can be edit-a-thons on specific topics in Wikipedia, Wikidata, Open Street Map, or other free knowledge projects that are organized by the library and/or take place in its premises. Proof: The event should be documented as an invitation news on the website, as a report in the blog or similar. The event should not have taken place longer than three years before the application date. Projects: The library is substantially involved in programs to strengthen media and information-related competencies (e.g. [Mozilla Web Literacy](#)), improve source references in Wikipedia (e.g. [1Lib1Ref](#)), or in Wikidata (e.g. [WikiCite](#)).

Proof: Link to a website of the event or a report on the project.

Always publish Open Access in the library as well

Library staff members publish in Open Access.

Adopt an internal Open Access policy for the library that goes beyond that of the university and/or only publish, review, and edit in media where content is available in Open Access without delay. Provide direct links to open access full-texts on the library's publication lists.

Proof: This criterion can be fulfilled by one of the following evidence:

- a) Adoption of a mandatory Open Access policy for library staff members that affects authorship, reviewing, and editing activities (please provide URL);
- b) Evidence in the bibliography or annual report of the library or university for the last 12 months that all publications by the library and its staff members are available in Open Access with corresponding links.

Making library photos reusable

Provide photos of the library under an open license.

Collect photos of the library and make them available for reuse online. The photos are uploaded to a platform that supports machine-readable identification of the free license and thus enables the discoverability of free content by search engines. The photos must be licensed under an [Open Definition-compliant license](#).

Proof: Link to image database (portals such as Wikimedia Commons, Flickr, etc.).

Library as an open place

The library offers a course program for integration, inclusion, and/or emancipation to promote equal access for all.

The library is an open place for everyone. There is no access restriction. Its facilities and the majority of its collections can be used on-site without a registration or similar. It supports participation in a democratic society. The library offers programs for the integration, inclusion, and/or emancipation of disadvantaged groups. Other possibilities include providing information flyers in multiple languages, expanding the multilingual collection, or participating in action days such as "Open Society Day".

Proof: Course program with an integrative, inclusive, and/or emancipatory orientation (e.g. imparting reading and media literacy; programs for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers).



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