

## UT Libraries Philosophy of Access to Research, Scholarship, and Cultural Heritage

*June 29, 2022*

The University of Tennessee Libraries' mission is to enrich and advance our community, the nation, and the world by providing expertise and leadership in accessing, creating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge. These ideals are derived from three overlapping missions: the unique mission of the University, the mission of the University as a modern R1, land-grant institution,<sup>1</sup> and our mission as an academic library.

Beyond our commitment to supporting the University and its faculty, students, and staff, we recognize a role in the broader landscape of Tennessee and its citizenry.

Access to research and knowledge that serves the public good is central to the mission of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and is thus central to the mission of UT Libraries. Access encompasses the freedom and ability to obtain and make use of research, scholarship, and creative works. We help light the path to high-quality education by working openly, publishing openly, and encouraging openness throughout the research lifecycle. In making equitable access a priority, UT Libraries facilitates research that makes life and lives better for communities both within and beyond the state of Tennessee.

We are entrusted with public funds, and thus strive to wisely invest those funds for greatest positive effect. Library subscription and purchasing agreements shall, to the best of our ability, further the mission of UT Libraries, our scholars and researchers, and the land-grant mission of the University of Tennessee.

Our principles must apply to our work internally and to the work of our external partners. The following tenets and supporting principles underscore our commitment to access.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.aplu.org/about-us/history-of-aplu/what-is-a-land-grant-university/>

## TENETS AND PRINCIPLES

### **Tenet 1: Access is central to the UT Libraries mission to cultivate, disseminate, and preserve knowledge.**

*Barrier-free, equitable access to research, scholarship, and creative work lies at the core of UT Libraries' role as a steward of learning, scholarship, and community. To extend our reach into the campus and surrounding communities, UT Libraries relies on transparent, sustainable subscription and purchasing agreements. These agreements should protect our scholars and help UT Libraries support the University of Tennessee's commitment to open, public access.*

1. Agreements that prioritize author rights to reuse and share their work help UT Libraries facilitate and further UT's commitment to open, public access.
2. Transparent negotiation and pricing help UT Libraries sustain its mission and commitment to enhance communities across the institution, state, and globe.
3. UT Libraries recognizes that long-term preservation of materials is essential to ongoing access.

### **Tenet 2: Access to collections that reflect the diversity of our state and global communities helps all of us work together to shape a more just and prosperous future.**

*Providing access to research, scholarly work, and creative outputs remains central to UT Libraries' commitment to equity and inclusion. We seek agreements with entities that share our commitment to equity and inclusion and that allow the greatest number of researchers access to UT-authored materials.*

4. World-class research, scholarship, and creative activity developed at the University of Tennessee using public funds should be widely and easily available.
5. UT institutional accessibility standards allow access by all people, regardless of physical or learning abilities.

**Tenet 3: Access to research, scholarship, and creative work supports UT's mission to advance the prosperity, well-being, and vitality of communities across Tennessee and around the world.**

*The University of Tennessee community seeks opportunities to both deepen and extend our connections with Tennesseans while expanding global engagement and impact. UT Libraries fosters public outreach and engagement at every opportunity. Our commitment to access allows us to serve diverse communities, including researchers, practitioners, and other groups who may lack access to scholarly research. By advancing access, we support discovery, creativity, and innovation while also creating high-quality, universally accessible educational opportunities.*

6. The support provided by UT Libraries is optimized by subscription and purchasing agreements with parties that help advance our mission and that of the University of Tennessee to support and promote equity and inclusion.
7. Sharing scholarly output catalyzes opportunities to advance the prosperity, well-being, and vitality of communities both locally and across the globe.

## Points of Negotiation

*An ideal licensing agreement will include every item in the list below. If implementation of a given point is agreed to be impossible at the time of negotiations, we will work in partnership with the vendor to specify an incremental path toward alignment with our priorities.*

- Agreements promote access to materials for Tennessee residents through:
  - Walk-in access to electronic resources
  - Alumni access
  - Shared UT system and state-wide higher education agreements
- Vendors demonstrate a commitment to open, public access to scholarly output practices with UT Libraries and/or UT authors
  - Agreements include copyright retention (and/or reversion, after a mutually agreed upon period) that provides authors control over their own intellectual output
  - Authors may assign a standard Creative Commons license of their choice

## Points of Negotiation, continued

- Vendors provide post-print copies of works by UT authors to UT
- Agreements do not waive institutional and/or funder Open Access requirements
- Vendors provide direct deposit to TRACE, with no restrictions or delays in adding designated versions (pre- and/or post-prints)
- Agreements do not contain language that undermines fair-use or copyright law (e.g., by creating contractual obligations that impose further limitations)
- Agreements do not place unnecessary limitations (such as CONTU) on interlibrary loan services, especially those that allow UT Libraries to serve the state-wide library community
  
- Vendors demonstrate a commitment to transparency
  - Agreements without clauses that restrict the public availability of license terms and pricing
  - Vendors provide clearly detailed pricing for all services, including Article Processing Charges
  - Vendors provide predictability and justification for any cost increases for subscriptions
  - Vendors provide equitable and sustainable Open Access models
  
- Vendors demonstrate a commitment to data sharing
  - Vendors provide preservation of electronic resources in the event of vendor data loss and/or company dissolutions
  - Vendors provide open, interoperable metadata through easily accessible methods
  - Vendors provide free author citation data and the most up-to-date COUNTER (or industry standard) usage metrics with no restrictions on sharing
  - Vendors provide unrestricted text and data mining rights with no restrictions on our scholars' ability to conduct reproducible, replicable, and transparent scholarship
  
- Vendors demonstrate a commitment to accessibility
  - Resources must meet the current institutional accessibility standards
  - If accessibility standards are unmet, the vendor provides and adheres to a transparent plan to meet those standards