

Selection/Content Criteria for CDL Open-Access Internet Resources

[**Note:** this is a draft for discussion purposes only and does not represent a specific proposal or the results of a working group charged to produce criteria]

Supporting the research, instruction, and public service needs for scholarly information is the primary consideration for selection of internet resources for the CDL Open-Access Internet Resources (OIR) collection. The OIR collection aims to point to primary information and not just lists of links. Information should be valid, accurate, current, and should come from an authoritative source. The OIR favors comprehensive content over sites offering only metadata (such as sites which provide full text of documents as opposed to just tables of contents or abstracts and sites which provide organizational information as opposed to merely contact details).

1. SCOPE

- Electronic resources accessible through the OIR are chosen to support the research, instructional and public service needs of the University of California community, creating as much as possible the electronic equivalent of an academic research library.
- Electronic resources may include all levels of specificity or granularity, from title-level resources to entire sites, as long as these fit the criteria outlined in this document; priority will be given to sites which include primary information or significant full-texts, images, data, etc.
- No corporate or commercial logos will be allowed on the CDL's web sites in order to avoid the perception of endorsement of any commercial enterprise by the CDL. Corporate or commercial sites will be included only if these contain unique information pertinent to the missions of the University of California.

2. QUALITY OF CONTENT

- The resources included in the OIR are selected by the same University of California librarians who select books, journals, and other materials for inclusion in the University of California collections. Resources chosen for inclusion must meet minimum criteria. Availability alone is not sufficient reason for inclusion. The resources must be clearly identified, consistently available, regularly maintained, and freely accessible to the University of California community. Responsibility for the resource must be stated in the resource, and the integrity of any original source must be reasonably preserved. The resource must warrant expenditure of institutional resources on its description, cataloging, and provision of access.
- Resources should contain information of high caliber from authoritative sources in the academic and other relevant communities. Included among these sources are reliable publishers, associations, government agencies, and recognized individual authorities in the field.
- Resources should originate from the creating or responsible institution, such as a government, an association, or a university; sites maintained by individuals should be closely monitored and selected only if superior in terms of currency, authoritativeness, and reliability to an institution-maintained site.
- Resources selected should contain unique data or contain links to high quality information.
- Priority will be given to University of California-created scholarly materials.
- The resource should contain sufficient information to create a catalogue record.
- Specific quality indicators are sought when a resources or services is considered:
 - Peer-reviewed
 - Highly regarded editorial staff, sponsors, and/or contributors
 - Organizational quality
 - Currency (unless clearly and purposefully archival in nature)
 - Electronic journals (special criteria needed?)
- Sites should be examined and reevaluated regularly for the quality and validity of information, access, design, and currency of content.

3. FUNCTIONALITY AND EASE OF USE

- Resources should show evidence of high production and design quality.
- Each resource should have high functionality as well as demonstrated utility and uniqueness.
- Electronic resources should be easy to use by the intended audience.
- Resources should include date of creation, date of last update, and, where appropriate, frequency of updating.
- Resources which provide textual information should not depend solely on graphics to present information (unless, as in the case of archives, the graphic presentation of the text imparts critical information); if they do, the provider should maintain a separate, text-only version of the content.
- Resources should not take an inordinately long time to load on machines with slow connections.

4. UTILITY

- Resources should be provided in formats conforming to recognized standards (e.g. MIME, standard HTML).
- Resources should have demonstrated usefulness to the faculty, staff, and students of the University of California..

5. STABILITY

- Resources should be accessible on a regular basis.

6. CURRENCY

- In general, resources should contain the most up to date information unless clearly labeled as an archival site.
- Each resource should indicate an ongoing commitment to maintaining data currency and integrity.

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