OER, Copyright, & Faculty

ARE ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS QUALIFIED TO SUPPORT THIS TRIPTYCH?

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Librarians as leaders of open

ALA Code of Ethics IV:

We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.
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RIOpen Textbook Initiative

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Required MLIS foundational courses that cover copyright/intellectual property

- Yes: 18%
- No: 82%

(top 10 ranked programs)
BIG initiatives – BIG expectations - little support.

Photograph from Katherine Hobson photograph album
Faculty Member: “Oh, I have no idea.”
Copyright Policy:
Does your institution have one?
Rhode Island HEI with Copyright Policies

- Institutional: 40%
- Library: 40%
- Neither: 20%
Why does this matter?

• We are librarians – *not* lawyers
• Vague guidelines and institutional support
• Cannot take advantage of the TEACH Act
Job descriptions – are they keeping up?

- “Other duties as assigned”
- Complicates review, tenure & promotion processes
- Harder to justify professional development
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Takeaways

• Seek professional development – CopyrightX, *Copyright for Academic Librarians and Professionals*
• Abide by your Institutional Copyright Policy, or advocate for one
• Familiarize yourself with the law
• Distinguish between *librarian* and *lawyer*
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