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## **OER, copyright and faculty: are academic librarians qualified to support this triptych?**

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# OER, Copyright, & Faculty

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ARE ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS QUALIFIED TO SUPPORT THIS  
TRIPTYCH?



Lindsey Gumb, MLIS  
Roger Williams University  
@lindseygumb

# Librarians as leaders of open

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## 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

Open Textbook Library



openstax™  
COLLEGE



Z-DEGREE



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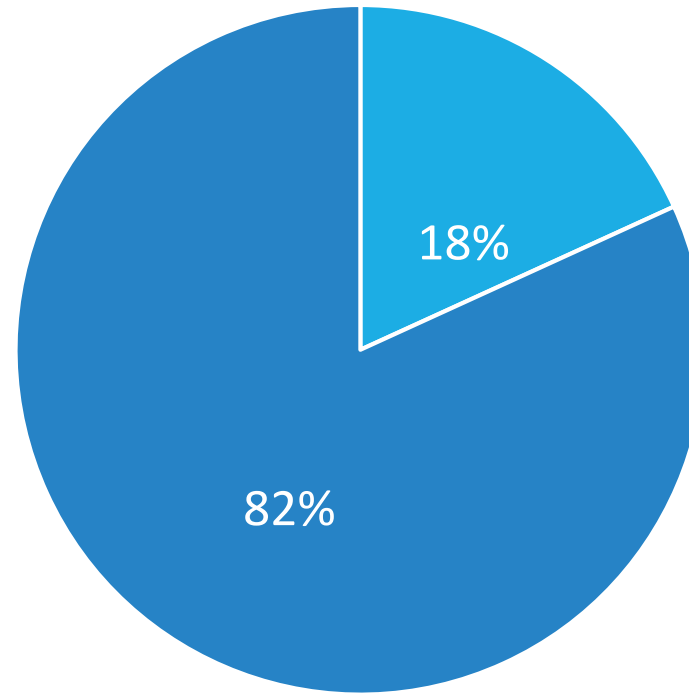
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# Required MLIS foundational courses that cover copyright/intellectual property



University of Pittsburgh



RUTGERS



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TEXAS  
AT AUSTIN

■ Yes    ■ No

(top 10 ranked programs)

# BIG initiatives – BIG expectations - little support.



Photograph from Katherine Hobson photograph album

Boy, would I hate to be her!  
– oh wait .... 😊

Librarian: *“Okay, let’s make some attributions:  
where did you get this image?”*

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Faculty Member: *“Oh, I have no idea.”*

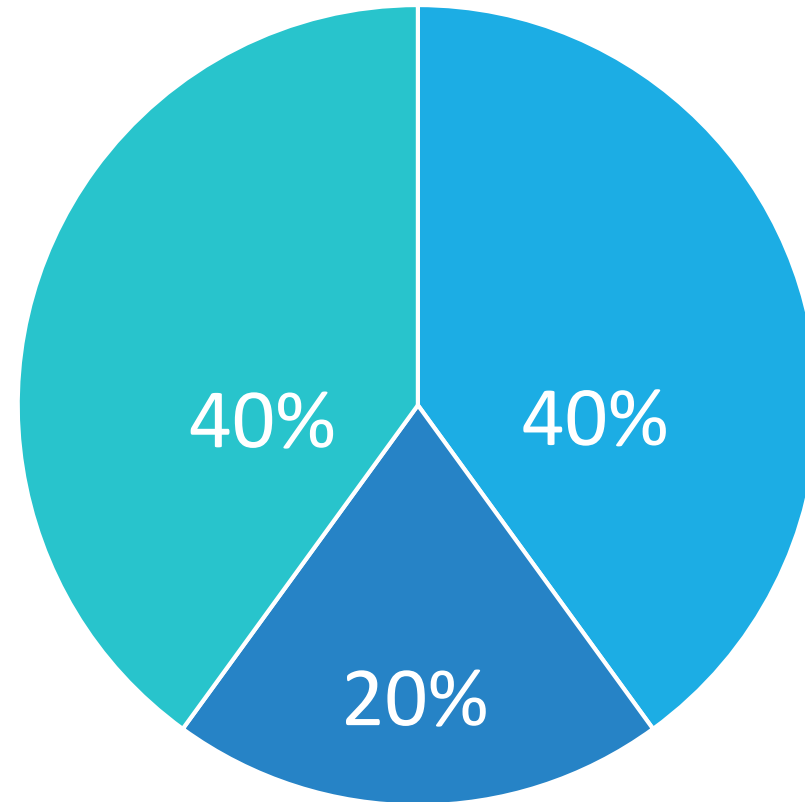
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# Copyright Policy:

Does your institution have one?

# Rhode Island HEI with Copyright Policies



■ Institutional ■ Library ■ Neither

# Why does this matter?

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- We are librarians – *not* lawyers
- Vague guidelines and institutional support
- Cannot take advantage of the TEACH Act

# Job descriptions – are they keeping up?

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



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# Takeaways

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- 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*

# Contact

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