

On December 3, 2017, the LRA Board submitted the following comments to the FCC:

The Literacy Research Association formally endorses the [FCC Open Internet Order of 2015](#) that classifies the internet as a Title II public utility.

The Literacy Research Association is the professional organization of over 1500 literacy research scholars. The scholars who make up the membership of the Literacy Research Association have as their mission the conduct and dissemination of research that promotes lifespan literacies in a multicultural and multilingual world and are committed to the promotion of literacy, which includes the creation and dissemination of a wide variety of multimedia texts. The Restoring Internet Freedom changes currently being considered would have a negative impact on the conduct and dissemination of research and have a profound effect on free and equitable access to diverse texts. The end of net neutrality would pose a risk to the conduct and dissemination of research findings and to our own and others' free access to information.

With this statement, LRA publicly and officially endorsed net neutrality. The FCC Open Internet Order of 2015 ensures that all internet data is treated equally. This is also called net Neutrality. The FCC is currently considering a vote on regulations they call "Restoring Internet Freedom" that would rescind net neutrality protections found in the 2015 Open Order. A roll back on net neutrality would have a negative impact on the conduct and dissemination of research and have a profound effect on free and equitable access to diverse texts. The LRA Board received a request to consider this endorsement at the 2017 LRA conference and determined that an endorsement of net neutrality is consistent with LRA's mission to advance research and practice in literacy.

Additional Information about Net Neutrality:

A summary of the Open Internet Rules can be found here: <https://www.cnet.com/news/13-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-fccs-net-neutrality-regulation/> and here: <https://www.engadget.com/2015/02/26/fcc-net-neutrality/>

Another summary, including a link to the FCC fact sheet is here <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/11/22/whats-stake-fccs-net-neutrality-vote/888870001/>

Additional Information about LRA Endorsements:

From time-to-time, the LRA Board may issue an endorsement about a cause, action, policy, or issue that is central to the organization's mission to promote literacy and literacy research. Consistent with the guidelines found in the Policy and Procedures Handbook, an individual or organization may seek support for an issue, cause, and/or action by addressing a request to the Board of Directors and Chair of the Policy and Legislative Committee. The LRA Board will consider endorsements of issues that are central to the organization's mission and consistent with the requirements of the organization's 501(c)3 non-profit status. LRA Members who are seeking LRA endorsement can contact Devon Brenner (devon@research.msstate.edu) to learn more about the process.