

NRC RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF SCHOLARSHIP IN ON-LINE, OPEN-
ACCESS OUTLETS

Whereas . . .

Digital media have transformed the production and dissemination of scholarship.

Digital dissemination broadens access to scholarship, particularly in regions of the world that do not have ready access to printed materials.

Many academic institutions and governmental agencies are increasingly unable to bear the costs of maintaining large collections of scholarly works in printed form.

Digital outlets for scholarship are less likely to be influenced by excesses of print production costs and commercialism that have contributed to the high cost of many printed journals and consequently to limitations in the range of other scholarly materials and genres that academic libraries can purchase.

Digital publication of scholarship is less detrimental to the environment than printed publication.

The faculty senates of prominent academic institutions in the United States (e.g., Harvard University and Stanford University) have passed resolutions encouraging faculty to seek publication of their work in online, open-access journals.

The dissemination of scholarship is a dimension of literacy, and unwarranted restrictions on the availability of information and scholarship are incompatible with the views of literacy that the National Reading Conference promotes.

Be it resolved that . . .

The National Reading Conference encourages its members to disseminate their scholarship in digital forms to the greatest extent possible. Specifically, it encourages its members to seek publication of their scholarship in journals and other outlets that provide their content online with open-access.

Further, whereas . . .

Historically, journal articles have been weighted heavily in tenure and promotion decisions.

Some individuals involved in making decisions about tenure and promotion devalue or are biased against digital publications.

An increasing number of online, open-access journals have review boards and rigorous processes for peer review that are compatible with or exceed the processes employed by many printed journals.

There is demonstrable evidence that the reach of online, open-access journals is often greater than printed journals.

The National Reading Conference encourages its members to publish in online, open-access journals

Be it resolved that . . .

The National Reading Conference encourages those individuals involved with tenure and promotion decisions of its members to not devalue automatically and unequivocally publications in online outlets, but to apply criteria uniformly and equally to online and printed outlets in accessing the quality of publications. It also encourages academic institutions to develop written policies aimed at ensuring that digital and printed outlets for scholarship are evaluated using the same criteria and that digital outlets are not devalued arbitrarily.