



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASERL Signs Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities Hopes to Foster Additional Signers at Member Institutions

At its recent Membership meeting in Atlanta, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) endorsed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. Of the approximately 360 signatories, ASERL became only the 25th US academic organization – and the 14th library consortium – to officially endorse the Berlin Declaration.

“ASERL members have long supported open access to scholarly information and data; signing on to the Berlin Declaration was an easy decision for us,” commented Sarah Michalak, Associate Provost and University Librarian for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and ASERL’s Board President. “Our members are experimenting with a number of models to make open access to scholarly information an everyday reality.”

The Berlin Declaration was first authored in 2003 and has attracted more than 350 signatories from around the world. Its creators seek the deposit of scholarly works and supporting materials in a sustainable, online repository that enables “open access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving.” Supporters of the Berlin Declaration met recently in Bethesda, Maryland for the ninth international conference to discuss ways to advance these principles and seek additional supporters. See <http://bit.ly/nyYx9d> for the full text of the Berlin Declaration and the complete list of signatories.

“ASERL was well represented at the Berlin 9 Conference, which was exciting to see. We hope ASERL’s support of the Berlin Declaration will spur more of our member institutions to sign on to the Declaration as well,” commented Ms. Michalak.

About ASERL

Founded in 1956, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries is the largest regional academic library cooperative in the country, with 40 members in 11 states. ASERL operates numerous projects designed to foster a high standard of library excellence through inter-institutional resource sharing and other collaborative efforts. By working together, ASERL members provide and maintain top quality resources and services for the students, faculty, and citizens of their respective communities. More information about ASERL can be found at www.aserl.org.

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