

<b>Policy subject:</b> Free Access to Educational Resources Policy	<b>Policy number:</b> 16/P.D/2024	<b>Date of last revision:</b> 2024/11/15
<b>Implementing body:</b> Academic Affairs Department	<b>Implementing start date:</b> 2024/11/20	<b>Policy reference:</b> Planning and Development Department

## Overview

The Free Access to Educational Resources Policy at Palestine Ahliya University ensures that all students, faculty, and staff have equitable and unrestricted access to essential academic materials, supporting academic success without financial barriers. The policy aligns with the university's mission to provide high-quality education and promote an inclusive learning environment.

## Objectives

- Equitable Access:** Provide free access to academic resources for all students.
- Enhance Achievement:** Remove financial barriers to educational resources.
- Promote Open Educational Resources (OER):** Encourage the use and creation of freely accessible, adaptable educational content.
- Support Faculty and Research:** Ensure faculty have access to the latest academic materials.
- Foster Knowledge Sharing:** Promote collaboration and innovation in teaching and learning.

## Scope

- Students:** All enrolled students, regardless of financial background.
- Faculty and Staff:** Teaching and administrative staff requiring access for academic purposes.
- University Library and Platforms:** Digital and physical libraries, open-access resources, and external partnerships.
- External Educational Partnerships:** Collaborations with publishers and digital resource providers.

## Statements

- Commitment to Access:** Ensure all members of the university community have free access to necessary academic resources.
- Support for OER:** Encourage the use of open, adaptable educational resources.
- Financial Accessibility:** Reduce costs for textbooks and research materials.
- Support for Faculty:** Facilitate access to research resources and professional development.
- Data Protection:** Ensure privacy and security in accessing educational materials.

## Procedures

1. **Access to Digital Resources:**
  - University Library: Free access to e-books, journals, and research papers.
  - Online Platforms: Access to the university's learning management system (LMS) for course materials.
  - Open Access Journals: Access to peer-reviewed content.
2. **Textbooks and Course Materials:**
  - OER Textbooks: Encourage the adoption of free, online textbooks.
  - Course Reserves: Free textbook loans from the library.
  - Subsidized Textbooks: Provide discounted textbooks when OER is unavailable.
3. **Faculty and Staff Access:**
  - Free Research Databases: Provide access to essential research materials.
  - Training: Offer professional development for digital resources and teaching tools.
  - Support for Research: Ensure access to current academic publications.
4. **Promotion and Awareness:**
  - Orientation: Introduce new students, faculty, and staff to available resources.
  - Library Assistance: Provide personalized support for accessing materials.
  - Awareness Campaigns: Inform the community through campaigns and social media.
5. **Collaboration with External Partners:**
  - Partnerships: Secure free or discounted resources from publishers.
  - OER Networks: Collaborate with institutions and organizations to support OER development.
  - Joint Initiatives: Work with others to promote policies supporting free educational resources.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
  - Usage Tracking: Monitor the use of digital resources for effectiveness.
  - Feedback Mechanism: Collect feedback on resource accessibility and improvements.
  - Policy Review: Periodically assess the policy for relevance and effectiveness.

**Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**

1.	Number of Individuals Accessing Free Resources
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