

UNT Libraries' Open Source Software Policy

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Contributors:

Mark Phillips Assistant Dean for Digital Libraries

Will Hicks Department Head, User Interfaces

Jason Thomale Resource Discovery Systems Librarian



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Open Source Software Policy

The UNT Libraries issues the following policy related to the use of, contribution to, and creation and release of Open Source Software in order to support open scholarship at the University of North Texas by building upon the efforts of the [UNT Open Access Policy \(http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/17.5_Open%20Access_Self-Archiving_and%20Long-Term%20Digital%20Stewardship%20for%20UNT%20Scholarly%20Works.pdf\)](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/17.5_Open%20Access_Self-Archiving_and%20Long-Term%20Digital%20Stewardship%20for%20UNT%20Scholarly%20Works.pdf) for scholarly publishing and the Denton Declaration (<http://openaccess.unt.edu/denton-declaration>) for releasing and managing data.

Definitions

Contribution is a tangible product created by individuals that help advance an Open Source Software project. Examples of contributions include: programming, bug fixes, issue reports, feature suggestions, and documentation.

Open Source Software is “software that can be freely used, changed, and shared (in modified or unmodified form) by anyone” (<http://opensource.org/> (<http://opensource.org/>)) and is distributed under a license approved by the Open Source Initiative, e.g. one of the licenses found here (<http://opensource.org/licenses>).

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- The UNT Libraries encourages librarians and staff members to contribute to projects for the Open Source Software that they use. Suitable projects should have a clearly documented license approved by the Open Source Initiative (<http://opensource.org/licenses>).
- UNT Libraries employees should ensure that the level of contribution made to an external project is adequately credited within the project's documentation.
- If a project requires it, copyright for contributed code may be transferred to another party, but UNT Libraries units and departments are responsible for evaluating such projects on a case-by-case basis to ensure they align with relevant UNT policies (such as the Copyright Compliance Policy, No. 16.13.3; Contracts and Agreements, No. 10.4; and the Intellectual Property Policy, No. 16.13.1) before their employees participate.

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- All software released by the UNT Libraries will include current contact information for the maintaining person, unit, or other entity, and a license statement. The BSD Three Clause License (see below) is recommended.
- Open Source Software projects should use a public version control repository to manage the software when possible. A hosting service such as GitHub (<https://github.com>) or BitBucket (<https://bitbucket.org>) is recommended.

Abide by best practices for Open Source Software development.

- The author of, or contributor to, an Open Source Software project will adhere to common codes of conduct within shared version control repositories and will address issues and other communications with the public in an timely, professional manner.

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