

The Benefits of OpenAthens for Public Library Users

	EZproxy	OpenAthens
Maintenance	Proxy configured by IT; library typically requests assistance with tickets for any new subscriptions, updates and troubleshooting issues.	Proxy hosted and maintained by OpenAthens; library selects resource in OA catalog and connection is established.
User Journey	Proxy cannot be used to access SAML resources without an accompanying Shibboleth server or similar SAML solution.	Uses SAML access for personalization wherever supported. True single sign on. Better personalization where supported. Leverage library's existing ILS for identity. Same log-in used for proxy access as for federated SAML access.
Reporting	Minimal; proxy (IP authentication) does not easily support usage reporting.	Supports usage reporting for all library resources, proxy and SAML, in a single dashboard.
Security	Proxy (IP authentication) is not secure and is vulnerable to misuse.	Uses SAML instead of proxy IP wherever available; SAML 2.0 is considered to be an industry standard in secure authentication; securely supports personalized access.
Administration	Proxy configured by IT; library must request assistance. New subscriptions must be added to config file.	Library-centric; settings contained in a single dashboard.