



Open Library of Humanities

A better path to open access for the humanities

“The Open Library of the Humanities promises crucial changes in the debate surrounding open access publishing, by bringing together a robust, standards-based technical platform with rigorous scholarly oversight, innovative editorial practices, and an emphasis on community outreach.”

– Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Head of Scholarly Communications, MLA

“The Open Library of the Humanities is a transformative venture on the leading edge of open access initiatives on both sides of the Atlantic. There is hardly a more important project in train for scholarship in the humanities today.”

– David Armitage
Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History
Harvard University

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ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION



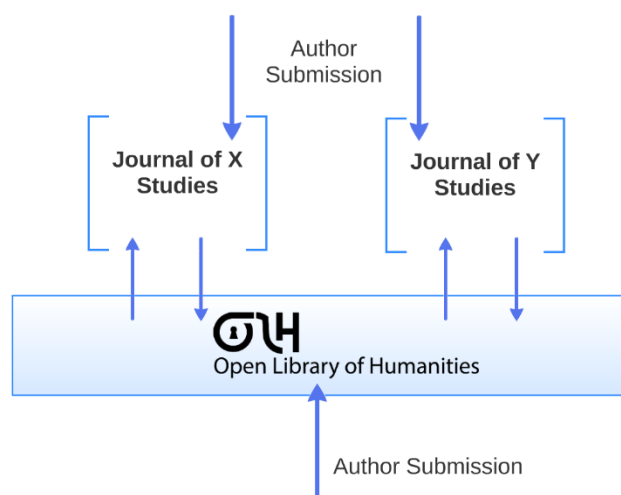
What is it?

The Open Library of Humanities (OLH) is a charitable organisation dedicated to publishing open access scholarship with no author-facing article processing charges (APCs). We are funded by an international consortium of libraries who have joined us in our mission to make scholarly publishing fairer, more accessible, and rigorously preserved for the digital future.

The OLH publishing platform supports academic journals from across the humanities disciplines, as well as hosting its own multidisciplinary journal. Launched as an international network of scholars, librarians, programmers and publishers in January 2013, the OLH has received **two substantial grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** to date, and has built a sustainable business model with its partner libraries.

All of our academic articles are subject to rigorous peer review and the scholarship we publish showcases some of the most dynamic research taking place in the humanities disciplines today – from classics, modern languages and cultures, philosophy, theology and history, to political theory, sociology, anthropology, film and new media studies, and digital humanities. Our articles benefit from the latest advances in online journal publishing – with high-quality presentation, annotative functionality, robust digital preservation, strong discoverability and easy-to-share social media buttons.

Our mission is to support and extend open access to scholarship in the humanities – for free, for everyone, for ever.



Open access refers to peer-reviewed academic research that is available freely to read and re-use online. Gold open access means that this service is provided by publishers. This usually means that a new business model is needed as if the material is free to read, it cannot be sold as a subscription. Many publishers are implementing this through article and book processing charges (APCs and BPCs). These, though, are unaffordable in humanities disciplines.

The OLH works differently with a small contribution from a large number of libraries covering the costs of publication; a cost pool. The OLH thereby offers an extremely cost-effective solution for open access that means that no single institution bears a disproportionate cost. Participating libraries not only

invest in a **community shared service** that would not otherwise be feasible but are also given a **governance stake** in the project.

The OLH has been internationally recognised as an important development in open access for the humanities and for its innovative business model. The platform has initial funding from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**. **David Armitage**, the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at **Harvard** writes that “there is hardly a more important project in train for scholarship in the humanities today”. **Kathleen Fitzpatrick**, the Head of Scholarly Communications at the **MLA**, notes the “crucial changes in the debate surrounding open access” that the project has already triggered.

What journals does it support?

Since our launch in 2015, OLH has expanded to publish 23 fully gold-open-access journals:

- 19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century
- Architectural Histories
- ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts
- Body, Space & Technology
- C21 Literature: Journal of 21st-Century Writings
- Digital Studies/Le Champ Numerique
- Digital Medievalist
- Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics
- Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetry
- Laboratory Phonology: Journal of the Association for Laboratory Phonology
- Le Foucauldien
- Marvell Studies
- Open Spaces: Journal of the British Association of Film, Television & Screen Studies
- Orbit: A Journal of American Literature
- Pynchon Notes
- Quaker Studies (partnership with Liverpool University Press)
- Studies in the Maternal
- The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship
- The International Journal of Welsh Writing in English (partnership with University of Wales Press)

- The Journal of Embodied Research
- The Journal of Portuguese Linguistics
- The Open Library of Humanities Journal
- Theoretical Roman Archaeology Journal

Who is involved?

The platform is coordinated and managed by Prof. Martin Paul Eve (author of *Open Access and the Humanities: Contexts, Controversies and the Future*, Cambridge University Press 2014) and Dr. Caroline Edwards.

Academic Steering Committee

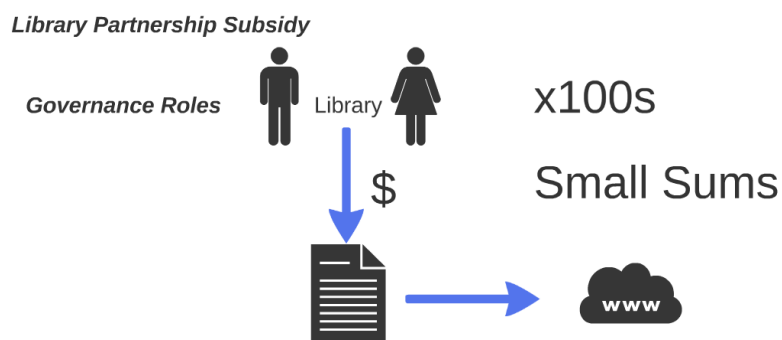
Extensive consultation has taken place with high-profile academics and librarians from our committees, including, but not limited to:

David Armitage (Harvard)	Martin McQuillian (Kingston)
Marguerite Avery (MIT Press)	Nora McGregor (The British Library)
Robert Eaglestone (Royal Holloway)	Bethany Nowviskie (University of Virginia)
Michael Eisen (PLOS)	David Palumbo-Liu (Stanford)
Steven Engler (Mount Royal University, Calgary)	Oya Y. Rieger (Cornell; arXiv)
Kathleen Fitzpatrick (MLA),	Ben Showers (Jisc)
David Gauntlett (Westminster),	Peter Suber (Harvard OA Project)
Catherine Grant (Sussex)	Melissa Terras (UCL Centre for Digital Humanities)
Eve Gray (University of Cape Town)	Sanford G. Thatcher (ex-Penn State UP)
Cable Green (Creative Commons)	Patricia Waugh (Durham)
Gary Hall (Coventry; Open Humanities Press)	Peter Webster (the British Library)
Robert Judd (American Musicological Society)	John Willinsky (Stanford)
Robert Kiley (Wellcome Library)	James Willson (Sussex)
Vicky Lebeau (Sussex)	Jane Winters (IHR)

What is innovative and how is it funded?

The current level of Article Processing Charges makes gold OA publishing unaffordable for the majority of unfunded humanities scholars. The OLH aims instead to implement a collaborative, or collective, funding model for gold open access in the humanities.

This means lots of libraries all paying a small amount to make it work.



In this mode, rather than institutions bearing the whole cost when their researchers need to publish (as with open access through “article processing charges”), this model instead spreads costs across institutions; much like the advantageous aspects of the subscription model. Except, in this case, the results are made openly accessible.

The model is **extremely cost effective**, with a base cost of approximately \$500 per article. This covers ongoing technological costs, staff costs, digital preservation, typesetting and other costs. When this is spread across institutions, with just 125 institutions participating at the higher level of banding (\$1,000) we will be able to publish 250 articles per year. This would be a **cost to each institution of just \$4 per open-access article**. This economy of scale improves as more institutions join.

Furthermore, because existing journals can migrate on to the OLH platform, institutions have a route to a transition for open access. This means that as journals that were previously with commercial publishers move across, participating libraries should see direct cancellations, allowing a transfer of budgets into funding open access.

How much will I pay?

The Library Partnership Subsidy is banded, based on country and size of institution. For more information, see <https://www.openlibhums.org/plugins/supporters/signup/banding/>.

What do contributors receive?

All contributing libraries/individuals are given a place on the OLH Library Board, which will consult with the OLH Academic Board in the future admission of overlay journals and other governance/budgetary decisions.

Who are your stakeholders?

We operate on a not-for-profit basis and are not beholden to stakeholders/profit. The Open Library of Humanities Limited is a registered charity in England and Wales.

What is the open access policy?

Everything published in the OLH and its journals is free for the reader to access. All material is to be licensed under a Creative Commons license of the author's choosing.

Where can I learn more?

<https://www.openlibhums.org> or email martin.eve@openlibhums.org.

How do I sign up?

To sign up, go to <https://www.openlibhums.org/plugins/supporters/signup/>.

How can I help to spread the word?

Existing members can take advantage of a mutual ten per cent discount to refer a partner institution by visiting <https://www.openlibhums.org/refer>. Members can create their own unique url, to be shared with their network. Following the link will lead to the signup page, and automatically apply the discount to the quoted fees.



openlibhums.org