OLH

We are the Open Library of Humanities.

For free. For everyone. Forever.

The Open Library of Humanities (OLH) is an award-winning diamond open access publisher of internationally leading academic scholarship.

We publish 30+ journals funded by 340+ university libraries. We believe that publishing should be academic-led and community-owned.

"The Open Library of 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."

Prof. David Armitage
Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History, Harvard University

"Many publishers believe that radical openness is not sustainable. Yet the remarkable growth of the OLH over the last ten years demonstrates that it is, with the right ingenuity and commitment. The OLH is a model for what publishing should be."

Prof. Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Director of Digital Humanities and Professor of English at Michigan State University

"In the past decade, the OLH has demonstrated the viability of a collective and solidarity-driven investment approach within research communities. This model offers a sustainable and scalable route towards achieving genuine open access in the creation and dissemination of knowledge."

Prof. Leslie Chan
Associate Director, Centre for Critical Development Studies, University of Toronto Scarborough, and original signatory of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (2001)

OLH library brochure
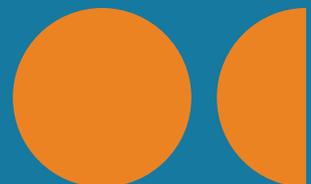
The OLH model.

We've spent 10 years building a sustainable business model for funding diamond open access publishing. Our model places equity at the heart of scholarly publishing – for readers, authors, editors, libraries, and funders.

We believe that Article Processing Charges (APCs) and Transformative Agreements (TAs) are unaffordable and unfair. They perpetuate legacy subscription models that privilege wealthier institutions in the Global North at the expense of scholars working in the Global South.

Our model makes diamond open access affordable and sustainable.

More than 340 university and public libraries worldwide have joined us in our mission. Diverting small sums from their commercial open access budgets, these partner libraries help the OLH grow its portfolio of journals and build open-source publishing technologies that benefit the entire academic community.

This challenges commercial academic publishers to reduce their library subscriptions and improve the transparency of their own business models.

How it works.

01

Many universities and libraries contribute small, affordable sums.

02

These funds cover OLH publishing expenses and journal funding.

03

OLH journals publish research that is archived, secure, and free to access.

JANEWAY

A world-leading open-source digital publishing platform.

Our dedicated in-house software engineers have built a leading platform for journal hosting, migration, manuscript submission, review, copy-editing, and typesetting. The platform is called Janeway.

Janeway is built on open infrastructure, easily integrated into other systems, follows the highest metadata, accessibility and interoperability standards and is easy to use for authors and editors.

Publishing OLH journals on our own platform also reduces the cost of open access publishing. By removing the profit margins of publishing infrastructure providers, the OLH has demonstrated that diamond open access publishing is affordable, scalable, and sustainable. Releasing our own publishing technology open source under a Copyleft license ensures that the software built by the OLH tech team is safeguarded against commercial acquisition. Our publishing platform will remain truly open for the entire scholarly community.

Janeway is rapidly becoming the platform of choice for other scholarly publishers, including California Digital Library, MIT, University of Michigan Press, UCL Press, New York University, TU Darmstadt, Society for Clinical Data Management, Iowa State University, Dublin City University, University of Ghent, and University of Westminster Press.

"Their platform was the most intuitive one I had seen in terms of user experience, and it was the only platform to offer all of the integration, analytical and dissemination features which we were keen to have."

Megan Taylor
Former Press Manager, University of Huddersfield Press

"By migrating to Janeway, our university press content is finally curated and indexed at a level that we are truly proud of as well as fully open access. The Open Library of Humanities are brilliant partners and Andy and the team really helped us to understand the full suite of services and were extremely quick to respond to our queries which in turn provided a very quick turnaround time for implementation."

Camille Regnault
Former Scholarly Communication Assistant at the University of West London

"The first thing to know about Janeway is that it is not just a submission system and platform. It is a complete publishing tool that allows the editors to basically operate as a publisher. That makes it hugely empowering."

Johan Rooryck
Executive Director of cOAlition S, Professor of Linguistics at Leiden University and Editor-in-Chief of *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*

Preservation and discoverability.

Editorial quality.

OLH journals are supported by a dedicated editorial team who work closely with journal editors and authors to ensure the quality of journal policies and research integrity of published articles.

Journals adhere to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines, which set out the highest standards in scholarly publishing.

Rights retention.

OLH authors remain the copyright holders of their articles, granting third parties the right to use, reproduce, and share their work according to a Creative Commons Attribution license agreement (CC BY 4.0).

"I really enjoyed working with OLH, and thought their work was excellent: just the right amount of editing and always fast, and always patient as we tried to navigate the workflow. I've worked with a lot of publishers and journals by now, and that was the smoothest, friendliest and best-value experience I've had in the last 15 years. I hope to work with them again in the future."

Bettina Bildhauer
Professor of German, University of St Andrews

Comprehensive indexing.

All OLH journal content is registered with Crossref and assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

Our journal information is harvested by Google Scholar and metadata is available for harvesting via OAI-PMH. Journals are registered with Open Archives at Cornell University, which maintains interoperability standards through metadata exchange among repositories.

OLH journals are indexed by the following services: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), ISSN Portal, British Library legal deposit, Sherpa Romeo, JISC Knowledge Base+, Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers, ERIH PLUS, ChronosHub, EBSCO Knowledge Services, ScienceOpen, and OpenAIRE. As of 2023, we are in the process of indexing journals with Scopus (CiteScore for 2022: 1.1), and Clarivate services, including Web of Science, ExLibris and ProQuest.

Robust archiving.

OLH archival practices have been designed to ensure the long-term availability and preservation of all our journals.

We automatically archive journal content with subject specific archives such as PubMed Central and Europe PMC / PMC Bookshelf. Articles are preserved in Portico, a community-supported "dark archive" certified by the Center for Research Libraries as a Trustworthy Digital Repository. We also deposit articles in the CLOCKSS and LOCKSS permanent archiving systems at Stanford University. These systems use open source technologies to ensure a distributed digital preservation across the world's libraries (following the principle "lots of copies keeps stuff safe") and are the world leaders in high-confidence, resilient, secure digital preservation.

For added security, OLH journals are also backed-up on 3 offsite data servers located in different countries to protect against cyberattacks in any part of the world. This robust approach to archiving and data security has earned us a silver rating from Crossref, the not-for-profit membership organisation that exists to make scholarly communications better.

Metadata standards.

All OLH journals expose OAI harvestable metadata in NLM, MARC, MARC21, RFC1807 and DC formats. This includes title, author and content type.

Article metrics.

OLH journal citations are monitored by Crossref. These metrics can be generated as reports for our journals, along with our own internal OLH statistics for article downloads and page reads. Our in-house digital publishing platform allows for integration with Google Analytics for further detailed information about each journal's website traffic.

Usage statistics.

Our publishing platform collects COUNTER-compliant statistics. We do not provide per-institution access statistics as we cannot reliably track these in an open-access environment.

Plan S compliance.

OLH journals are compliant with Plan S funder mandates to make full and immediate Open Access to research publications a reality, which is supported by the European Commission and the European Research Council (ERC). Our journals are included in the Plan S compliance Journal Checker tool.
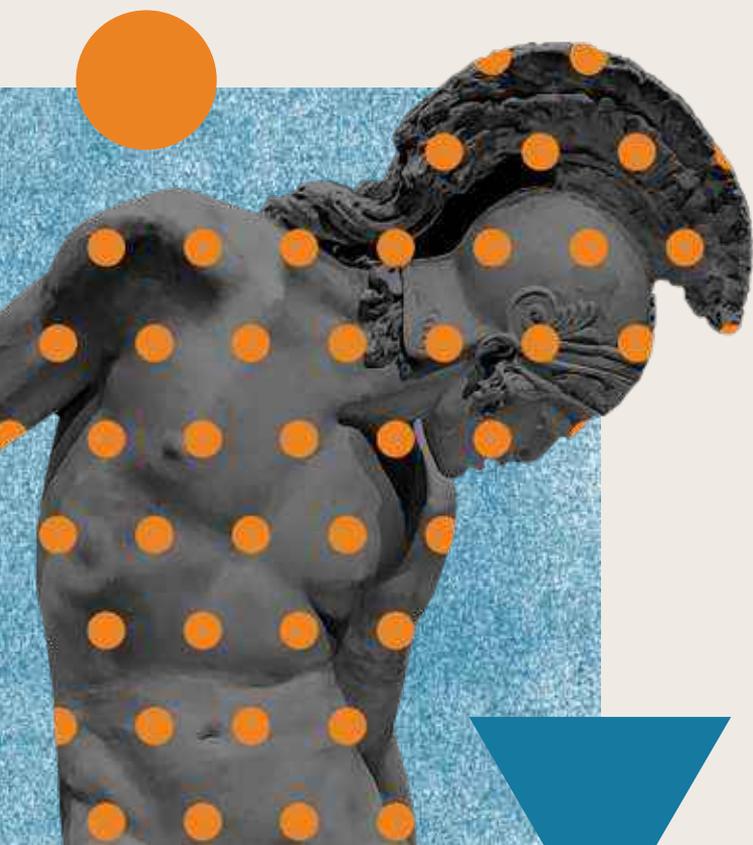
"Diamond open access is increasingly important for scholarly publishing worldwide. Recent EU Council conclusions stress the importance of not-for-profit models. The OLH has built an excellent infrastructure for accessing and disseminating peer-reviewed research in the humanities, with no fees for readers and authors. It offers financial transparency and is a very cost-effective way to support open access for tax-funded public institutions, who always need to have responsible spending at heart."

Katarina Wiberg

Open Access Officer, Kungliga biblioteket / National Library of Sweden

Become a supporter.

By joining us, you contribute to the development, sustainability, and governance of a collectively-funded publishing programme on an open-source platform.

You will support 30+ open access journals in the humanities with no author-facing or reader-facing charges. Funds are also used to 'flip' journals currently published under the subscription model with commercial publishers, providing a route to diamond open access that is affordable and sustainable.

Our fees are banded, based on country and size of institution, which means that scholars and institutions worldwide stand to benefit.

Our basic annual membership rate is lower than an Article Processing Charge (APC) for publishing a journal article open access with a legacy publisher (typically c. £2,500 / €2,894 / $3,067).

We publish c.500 articles each year for the price of 1 article funded by an APC and published open access by a legacy publisher. This means that OLH library partners pay £2.80 per article published in an OLH journal rather than £2,500 per article published open access with a legacy publisher. This represents a huge saving to library budgets; a saving that increases as the OLH flips more journals to diamond open access and brings down expensive subscription costs for journal bundles.

Keeping our basic membership rates low helps libraries keep their costs under control. Some universities, however, ask to support us at a higher membership rate to expand diamond open access and convert more humanities journals to this equitable model. We have higher-tier membership rates available at bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels for libraries operating with larger budgets for open access publishing. Institutions contributing at these higher rates receive OLH digital medals, allowing your library to display its commitment to open access.

By calculating membership rates via Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, we offer a fair pricing structure that contributes towards the repatriation of financial resources from the Global North to the Global South. For economic disparity data and currency exchange rates, we can use the best available public data, gathered programmatically (via an API) when it changes.

Pricing tiers and bands.

Standard membership

Country	Institution size		
	Small < 5,000 students	Medium < 10,000 students	Large > 10,000 students
India	$100 USD	$100	$120
South Africa	$180	$260	$340
Brazil	$220	$320	$410
Czechia	€670	€960	€1,250
Italy	€980	€1,410	€1,830
Japan	$1,150	$1,650	$2,140
France	€1,170	€1,670	€2,170
UK	£1,030	£1,545	£2,060
Germany	€1,390	€1,990	€2,590
US	$2,080	$2,980	$3,870

Higher membership levels

Country	Membership level			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
India	$300 USD	$450	$600	$900
South Africa	$850	$1,270	$1,700	$2,550
Brazil	$1,020	$1,530	$2,040	$3,060
Czechia	€3,100	€4,660	€6,210	€9,310
Italy	€4,540	€6,820	€9,090	€13,630
Japan	$5,310	$8,080	$10,770	$15,940
France	€5,380	€8,080	€10,770	€16,160
UK	£5,000	£7,500	£10,000	£15,000
Germany	€6,420	€9,640	€12,850	€19,280
US	$9,610	$14,420	$19,230	$28,840

Participating institutions are given:

- A seat on the OLH Library Members' Network, which is represented by the elected OLH Library Board. The Board is responsible for overseeing the governance of the OLH and representing library members' interests. Discussions take place electronically and the seat is held for the lifetime of the membership.

- A yearly report detailing the Products of the OLH and the ways in which library funds are being spent solely to further the enterprise of open access publishing.

- Access to all products from the OLH platform (which are open access). For a full list of our journals, scan the QR code below.

- A listing on the Open Library of Humanities website as a Member.

- This agreement is exempt from VAT.

Consortial offer.

We welcome expressions of interest from consortia, societies, networks, and scholarly projects interested in joining the OLH as a bloc. Members joining in a consortial group gain a discount of:

- 5% if 10 libraries join

- 10% if 20 libraries join

- 15% if more than 30 libraries join

For further information about our consortial offer, please email our Marketing Officer Paula Clemente Vega: paula.clementevega@bbk.ac.uk.

Sustaining partners.

We work closely with libraries, funders, and scholarly associations to make academic publishing fairer and more accessible. The OLH has received £2.5 million funding to build a sustainable publishing model. The following are our higher tier supporters and sustainng partners.

ARCADIA

Mellon Foundation

LYRASIS

JISC

Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Higher supporters.

- Sächsische Landesbibliothek Staats – und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden
- The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- Iowa State University Library
- King's College London
- Lancaster University
- The Open University
- University College London
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Arizona Libraries
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- University of Manchester
- University of Oxford
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- Univeriversity of York
- Yale University

340+

Our journals are funded by more than 340 university and public libraries worldwide

Librarian testimonials.

OLH

"The Spanish National Research Council has been collaborating with the Open Library of Humanities for more than 5 years. OLH is one of the most impressive initiatives serving the humanities within open access publishing today. By supporting OLH, we are contributing to the implementation of a new culture of scholarly communication - more open, sustainable, transparent, and equitable - without renouncing quality."

Agnès Ponsati
Director, Unit of Information Resources for Research, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

"For many years now, the Open Library of Humanities has proven that a high-quality alternative to author-pays open access is possible. The OLH's collective funding approach is more equitable, better aligned with the mission of universities, and considerably cheaper for libraries than subscriptions, APCs, or read-and-publish deals. It is hard to see why this would not be a priority for each and every humanities library."

Demmy Verbeke
Associate Professor of Open Scholarship, KU Leuven, Belgium

OLH Open Library of Humanities

Join the publishing revolution.

If you would like to join the OLH, or have questions about our membership fees, please scan this QR code to visit our website.

POWERED BY

JANEWAY

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