



Open Library of Humanities

A better way 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

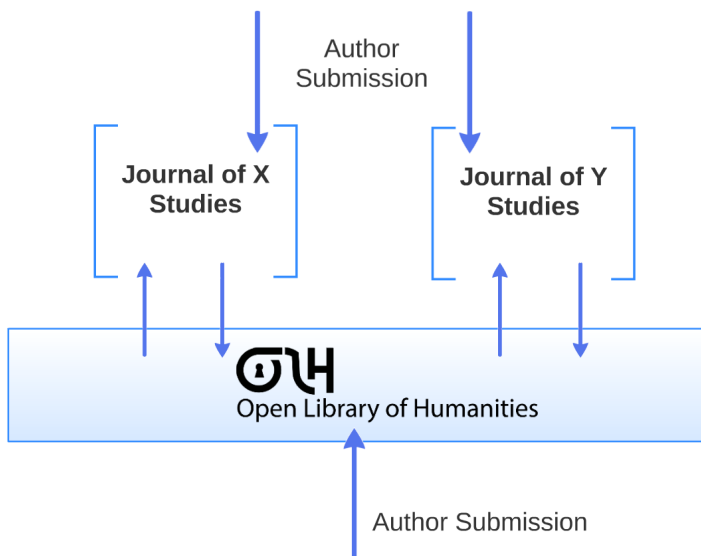
“The Open Library of the Humanities is a transformative venture on the leading edge of open-access initiatives on both sides of the Atlantic. There is hardly a more important project in train for scholarship in the humanities today.”

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



What is it?

A peer-reviewed open access, internationally supported, academic led and high quality mega-journal, multi-journal, overlay-journal & books platform for the humanities.



The OLH is a megajournal platform; a strongly peer-reviewed, quality-orientated, interdisciplinary space for hundreds of articles per year. It will also host a series of existing and new journals which not only accept submissions with full academic autonomy but whose content can be cross-curated from one journal to another, thereby re-empowering editors over and above journal brand. It has **no author-facing charges**.

The platform will also publish a range of open access books per year should we achieve the requisite funding, with potential involvement from **Cambridge University Press**, **Harvard University Press**, **Open Book Publishers** and **Oxford University Press**.

Which disciplines are covered?

OLH takes a broad, inclusive understanding of the academic humanities, from classics, religious studies & theology, modern languages and literatures through to political philosophy, critical legal studies, anthropology and newer subject areas such as critical theory & cultural studies, film, media & TV studies

Who is involved?

As just a small selection of high-profile **academics** and **librarians** from our committees:

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

Who runs it?

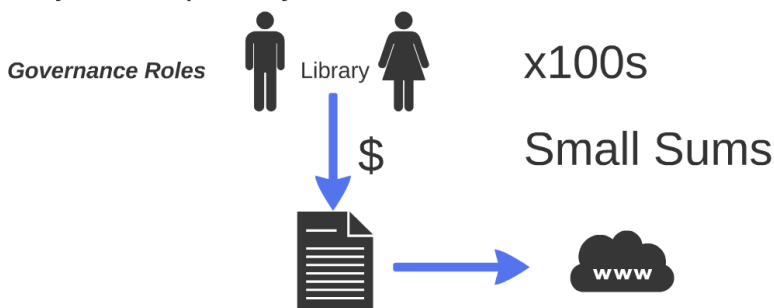
The platform is coordinated and managed by the directors, Dr. Martin Paul Eve and Dr. Caroline Edwards.

What's 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.

Lots of libraries all paying a small amount to make it work.

Library Partnership Subsidy



When many libraries band together, it becomes possible to support large-scale open access infrastructures at a far cheaper rate when compared with closed access subscription mechanisms and direct article processing charges.

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.

How much does it cost?

Compared to other publishers: very little.

For 250 articles (without books):

Number of Libraries	Contribution per Library per Year (USD)	Cost per Article per Institution
400	\$462	\$1.84
350	\$528	\$2.11
300	\$616	\$2.46
250	\$740	\$2.96
200	\$925	\$3.70
180	\$1,027	\$4.10
160	\$1,156	\$4.62
140	\$1,321	\$5.28
120	\$1,541	\$6.16
100	\$1,850	\$7.40

Compared to other journals, this is extremely good value.

This level of value can only be returned by libraries working together cooperatively to support not-for-profit entities like the OLH, which **puts academic publishing before shareholders.**

For 250 articles and 12 books (discussions with Cambridge University Press, Open Book Publishers, Oxford University Press, Harvard University Press):

Number of Libraries	Cost per Library per Year (USD)
1000	\$350
900	\$388
800	\$437
700	\$500
600	\$583
500	\$700
400	\$875
350	\$1,000
300	\$1,166
250	\$1,400
200	\$1,750
180	\$1,944
150	\$2,333
140	\$2,500
120	\$2,916
100	\$3,500
90	\$3,888
80	\$4,375
70	\$5,000

When will it launch?

As soon as we can ensure financial sustainability, ideally early 2015. We have over 120 articles pledged for launch from a variety of career stages and disciplines.

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 UK company limited by guarantee (directors: Martin Eve and Caroline Edwards).

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



openlibhums.org