

Opening up Access Beyond the Sciences: Learning from the Open Library of Humanities



Dr Caroline Edwards
Lecturer in Modern & Contemporary Literature, Birkbeck
Editorial Director, Open Library of Humanities (OLH)

caroline.edwards@bbk.ac.uk
[@the_blochian](https://twitter.com/the_blochian)

Image by Layums under a CC BY-NC license

Opening up Access in the Humanities

- How does humanities publishing **differ** from STEM and social sciences publishing?
- The problem of **academic prestige**
- Funding: how can OA be **affordable** for the humanities?
- Debates concerning **OA licensing** – Creative Commons licenses and the importance of open licensing for digital methodologies
- The future for **OA monographs** (e.g. OAPEN, MIT, OBH, Ubiquity, OLH)
- **Overlay journals** – the implications of peer review as social curation

Drivers for OA: “from above”

- Rise of **national-level, institutional and funding-council mandates** for open access in the **UK (HEFCE, RCUK)**, the **EU (Horizon 2020)** and **Australia (ARC)**, as well as throughout many US institutions
- Some funders (e.g. RCUK) have stated a **preference for the gold route**
- More than **600 OA policies/mandates in force worldwide** – each varying in scope and approach, e.g.

China – National Natural Science Federation (NSFC) and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

India – similarly no national mandate but has a recommended OA policy

Brazil – SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online)

Australia – Health & Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council (ARC)

Canada – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

France – mixed OA ecosystem of green and gold OA currently

Japan – National Institute of Informatics

Drivers for OA: “from below”

- What are **academics’ attitudes** towards open access?
- How have academics themselves **responded to the “serials crisis”** in scholarly journal publishing?
- What **innovations** are academics experimenting with in peer review, rolling publishing formats, collaborative and interactive engagement, shorter- or longer-form texts, and releasing work-in-progress material?
- What is the **relationship between academics** (as authors, editors, readers and reviewers) and **“traditional” scholarly publishers**? How is this changing with open access?

Open Humanities Press: Academic Publisher of OA Books & Journals

- Founded in May 2008
- Scholar-led, **international OA collective** dedicated to critical theory in the humanities
- More than **16 journal titles** and **5 monograph series**
- **Distinguished Editorial Board**, including Gary Hall, Jean-Claude Guédon, Donna Haraway, Alain Badiou, Steven Connor, Claire Colebrook, Brian Massumi, Bruno Latour, Antonio Negri, Douglas Kellner, N. Katherine Hayles

The Comics Grid: Academic-run Journal (WordPress, Ubiquity)

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Contact](#)

[Content](#)

[Research Integrity](#)



[Log in](#)

[Register](#)

THE COMICS GRID
Journal of comics scholarship

[Submit an Article](#)

[Become a Reviewer](#)

Ubiquity press
open access

LATEST ARTICLES

POPULAR ARTICLES



**Planetary and Intericonicity:
Diagram of a Collaborative,
Digitally-enabled Research
Project**

Labarre

— 29 Dec 2014

Share this: [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [in](#) [+](#)



**Marvel and DC Characters
Inspired by Arachnids**

Da-Silva et al.

— 23 Dec 2014

Share this: [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [in](#) [+](#)



**Comic Con Goes Country Life:
On British Economy, Society
and Culture**

O'Brien

— 05 Dec 2014



Brian Cremins
Nostalgia and Strange Tales #180

[Follow on Twitter](#)

[Like on Facebook](#)

[Follow Via RSS](#)

[Journal Blog](#)

Announcements

Call for Papers 2015

As we open a new volume for 2015, *The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship* would

Ubiquity Press: OA services provider for journals & monographs

[Home](#)[About](#)[Books](#)[Journals](#)[Publishing](#)[Research Integrity](#)[Publish with Us](#)

Part of



Order by:

Title



Ancient Asia

Ancient Asia is the official annual journal of the Society of South Asian Archaeology (SOSAA). The scope of the *Ancient Asia* is vast - from the Stone Age to modern times, including archaeology, history, anthropology, art, architecture, numismatics, iconography, ethnography and also various scientific aspects including archaeobotany and archaeozoology, including theoretical and methodological issues.

[View Journal](#)[Submit an Article](#)

Archaeology International

Archaeology International, produced annually, combines news about **UCL Institute of Archaeology** activities with reports on research, both on new and on-going projects, carried out by members of staff. Papers reflect the broad geographical, theoretical and methodological scope of research at the Institute, including those of its three main Sections (World Archaeology, Archaeological Sciences and Heritage Studies), and its extensive global fieldwork presence. The journal has been relaunched with a double issue in 2011 to mark the Institute of Archaeology's coming 75th anniversary year, and is now also online and fully open access.

The Open Library of Humanities (OLH)

Humanities Megajournal, Multi-journal & Monograph Pilot



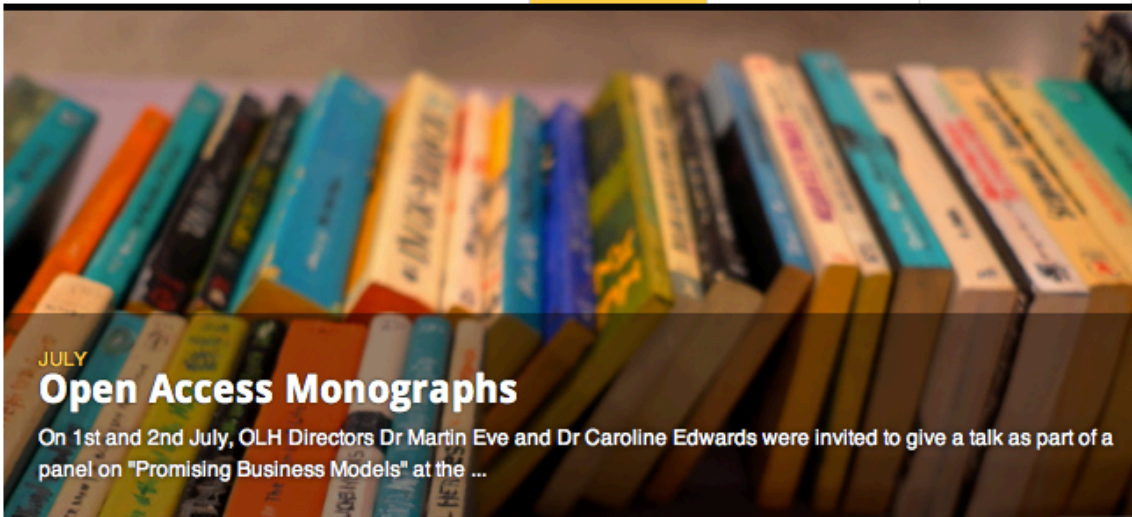
Home

About

Media

Get Involved

Committees

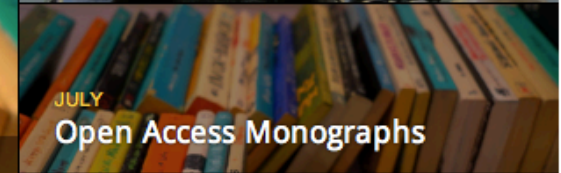


JULY
Open Access Monographs

On 1st and 2nd July, OLH Directors Dr Martin Eve and Dr Caroline Edwards were invited to give a talk as part of a panel on "Promising Business Models" at the ...



JUNE 2013
Harvard Guest Lecture



JULY
Open Access Monographs



MAY 2013
Roadmap for Technical Pilot

Latest News



May 15, 2013 | 0 Comments

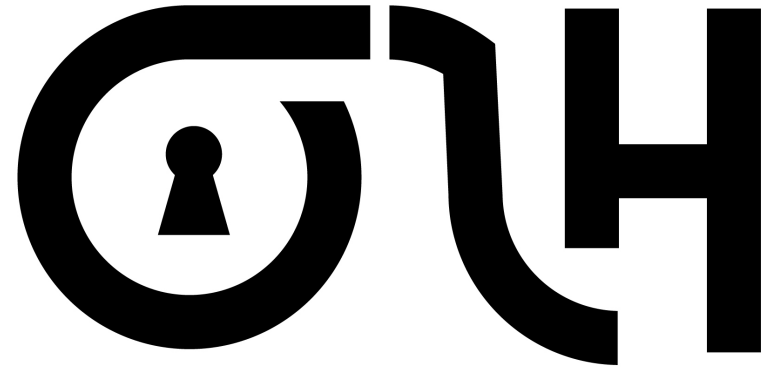
Search...



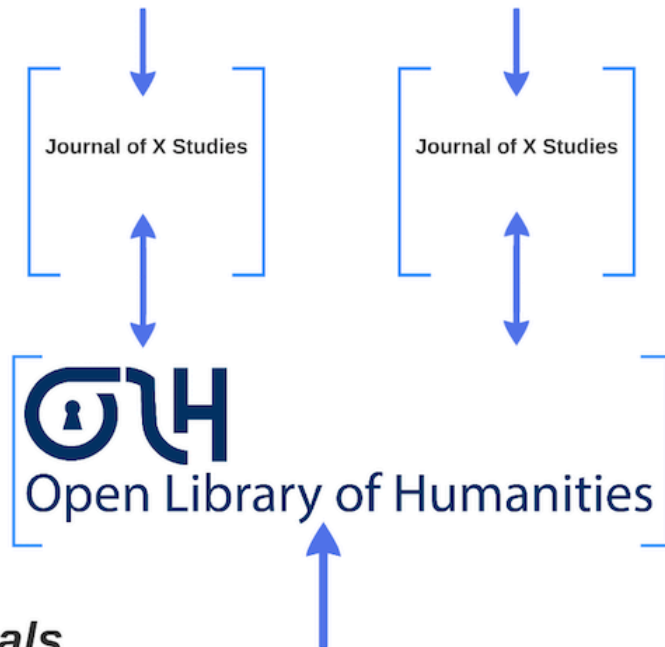
WELCOME

Welcome to the Open Library of Humanities (OLH). This site aims to give the background to, and rationale for, our vision of building a low cost, sustainable, Open Access future for the humanities. Please feel free to look around the site and get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

The Open Library of Humanities



Solving Prestige



Overlay Journals

3 components:

1. New megajournal
2. Multi-journal (service infrastructure for existing journals to migrate into the OLH platform)
3. Book-publishing partnership

OLH Monographs



If we solicit enough financial support from libraries (and should those participating libraries wish to pursue this) we have a **preliminary agreement to publish a series of open-access books** in partnership with Cambridge University Press, Harvard University Press, Open Book Publishers and Oxford University Press.



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OpenBook
Publishers 

The logo for Open Book Publishers, featuring the text 'OpenBook Publishers' in a blue, sans-serif font, with a stylized blue outline of an open book to the right.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

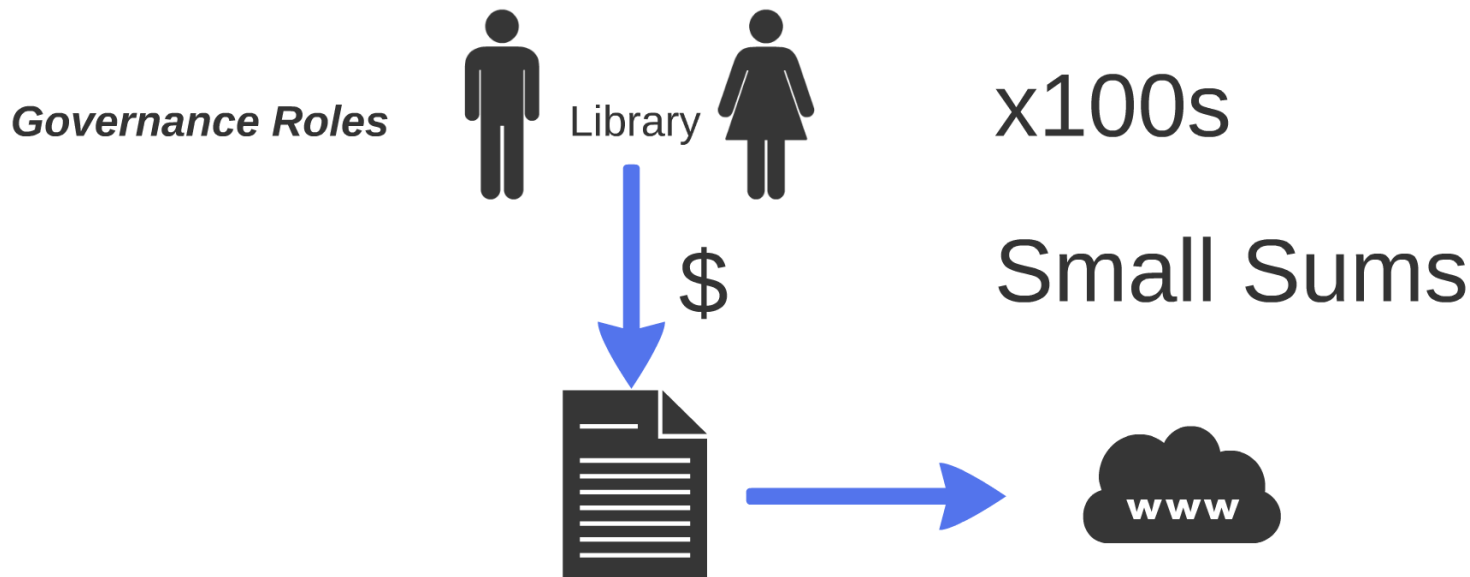
The Oxford University Press logo, featuring the text 'OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS' in white, serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Addressing Quality & Prestige

- **“Prestige trap”** – academics confer authority on journals through publication, editorial and review labour, and word-of-mouth – the journal “brand” is established & academics are then **obliged to buy back the products of their own labour**
- Despite the opportunities for OA (unpaid scholarly labour, low cost or open source software, and the possibilities of internet dissemination) – **libraries & academics remain entangled within a complex system of prestige, tenure, promotion and reward** which outsources publication to scholarly & commercial presses
- **Conservatism** concerning change to publishing models (such as OA) remains particularly strong in the Humanities disciplines
- Arguments concerning “gold” or “green” publishing – some funders (e.g. RCUK) have stated a **preference for the gold route**

New Business Model: The LPS

Library Partnership Subsidy



- Library Partnership Subsidy (LPS) – allows OLH to have **no author-facing charges**
- More than **60 libraries worldwide** signed up to LPS membership so far
- Our aim is to have many libraries contributing at an affordable level
- Target of **300 participating libraries** within 3 years (by 2018), at an **average contribution of \$850** per library

Opening up Scholarly Dialogue

- Next stage in OA publishing – developing **interoperative annotations tools**
- Made possible by recent developments, e.g. identifiers for research objects (Research Resource Identifiers or **RRIDs**) researcher identities (such as **ORCID**) and open web annotation standard (**WC3**)

Benefits:

- Provides a space for **constructive critical engagement**
- Allows **authors to engage with their readers** and the public
- Enables some of the possibilities of **online social reading**
- Offers **flexibility** to suit a **variety of collaborative activities**, using different privacy settings or public discussion
 1. An individual research project
 2. A private group (e.g. seminar group) – safe space for learning etc.
 3. Public annotations
- **Moderation of annotation**
- Build a **community translation layer**

