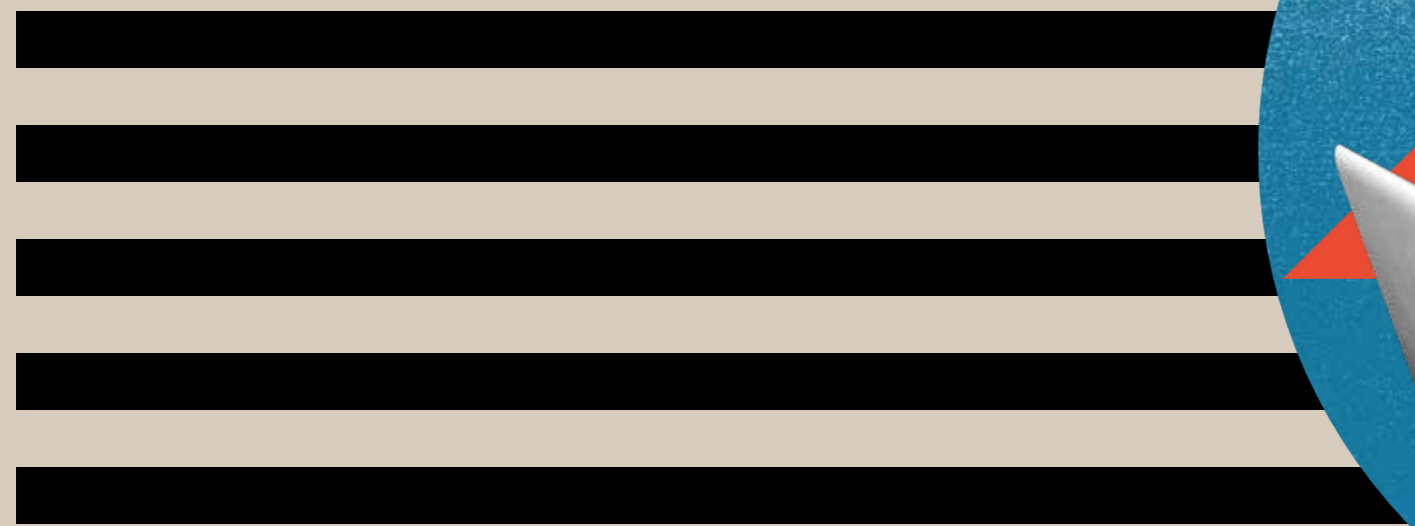


Annual Report 2023-2024



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"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



A letter from the Executive Director.

This is the first comprehensive annual report published by the Open Library of Humanities (OLH). It covers the financial year from August 2023 to July 2024, a transitional period in our evolution as an academic-led diamond open access publisher.



I co-founded the OLH with my friend and colleague Prof. Martin Eve, an award-winning scholar and leading advocate for not-for-profit open access. When we began the project in January 2013, the OLH was a shared dream with an emerging, amorphous structure fuelled by goodwill from scholars, librarians, publishers, and the open-source software community. With an incredible amount of hard work and determination, we launched as a publisher in September 2015 and the OLH went from strength to strength. Following early grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we were able to build a sustainable business model collectively funded by libraries. This enabled humanities journals to transition to not-for-profit open access (also known as diamond OA).

After 9 years working tirelessly at the OLH, as well as on many other OA and scholarly projects, Martin stepped away from the team to become Crossref's Head of Research & Development. His departure gave us pause to reflect on the OLH's core mission and values and as a team we collectively designed an organisational strategy that embeds sustainability in everything we do.

My role as Executive Director has involved working closely with our parent organisation, Birkbeck, University of London, to draw up a 7-year plan for sustainable growth. Supported by a new innovation centre at Birkbeck, we've been able to invest in our team – growing the OLH to ten members of full-time staff and supporting career progression to retain talented colleagues. In October 2023, I was delighted to be joined by Dr Rose Harris-Birtill and Andy Byers as OLH Directors. Rose and Andy bring years of experience working at OLH and sharing the director duties between the three of us ensures the sustainability of OLH's operations across our editorial, technical, and organisational teams.

Our increased capacity has enabled us to build our portfolio of leading humanities journals at an unprecedented rate. Over the past year the OLH has accepted 10 journals, including high-profile 'flips' away from commercial publishers such as Wiley and Springer Nature. These journals will relaunch at the OLH as community-governed publications that retain intellectual property rights to their titles. We have much work to do raising awareness among academic communities of the importance of community

ownership of journals. The media attention we've received over the past twelve months (with widely shared articles in the *London Review of Books*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Guardian*) gives us an excellent opportunity to advance the movement towards not-for-profit academic publishing.

With an expanded tech team of four software engineers and a tech support librarian role, our Janeway platform is going from strength to strength. Over the past year, more university presses have joined the platform, running their journals on Janeway and working collaboratively with the OLH to advocate for diamond open access. Our commitment to building community-supported software is matched by our ambition to provide the most robust and elegantly-designed interface to improve the user experience for editors and authors publishing with us.

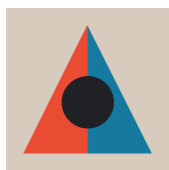
As we approach our 10th birthday next year, it's worth looking back at what the OLH has achieved so far. Since launching in September 2015, we've published 13,577 articles diamond open access (including back content that we flipped to OA for journals dating back to the 1960s). Had these articles been published via an Article Processing Charge (APC) or Transformative Agreement (TA) model, they would have cost libraries an average of £2,500 per article. Through its not-for-profit model, the OLH has saved libraries an estimated £33.9 million in OA publishing fees since 2015.

This astonishing saving is only the beginning. Our next step is to support library colleagues tackling spiralling journal subscriptions and challenge commercial OA publishing costs. Commercial publishers continue to deliver eye-watering profits to their shareholders by exploiting volunteer academic labour and impoverishing research communities in the process.

I look forward to working more closely with library negotiation teams over the coming year, standing up to large commercial suppliers and accelerating the transition to a university-led and community-owned publishing system.

Dr Caroline Edwards
Executive Director, Open Library of Humanities

Our Year in Numbers.



46

The number of countries in which OLH authors live & work.



5.3m

The number of times OLH journal articles were viewed & downloaded.



19%

The increase in engagement with OLH journal articles since the previous year.



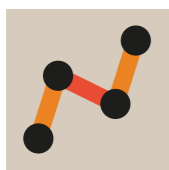
193

The number of countries in which OLH journal articles were read.



13,577

The number of articles OLH has published or flipped diamond open access since 2015.



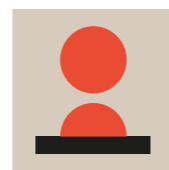
£33.9m

The amount of money OLH is estimated to have saved university libraries on Article Processing Charges (APCs) & Transformative Agreements (TAs) since 2015.



395

The number of journals hosted on OLH's open-source publishing platform, Janeway.



84%

The percentage of running costs spent on staff salaries & pensions.



21

The number of countries where libraries support OLH.

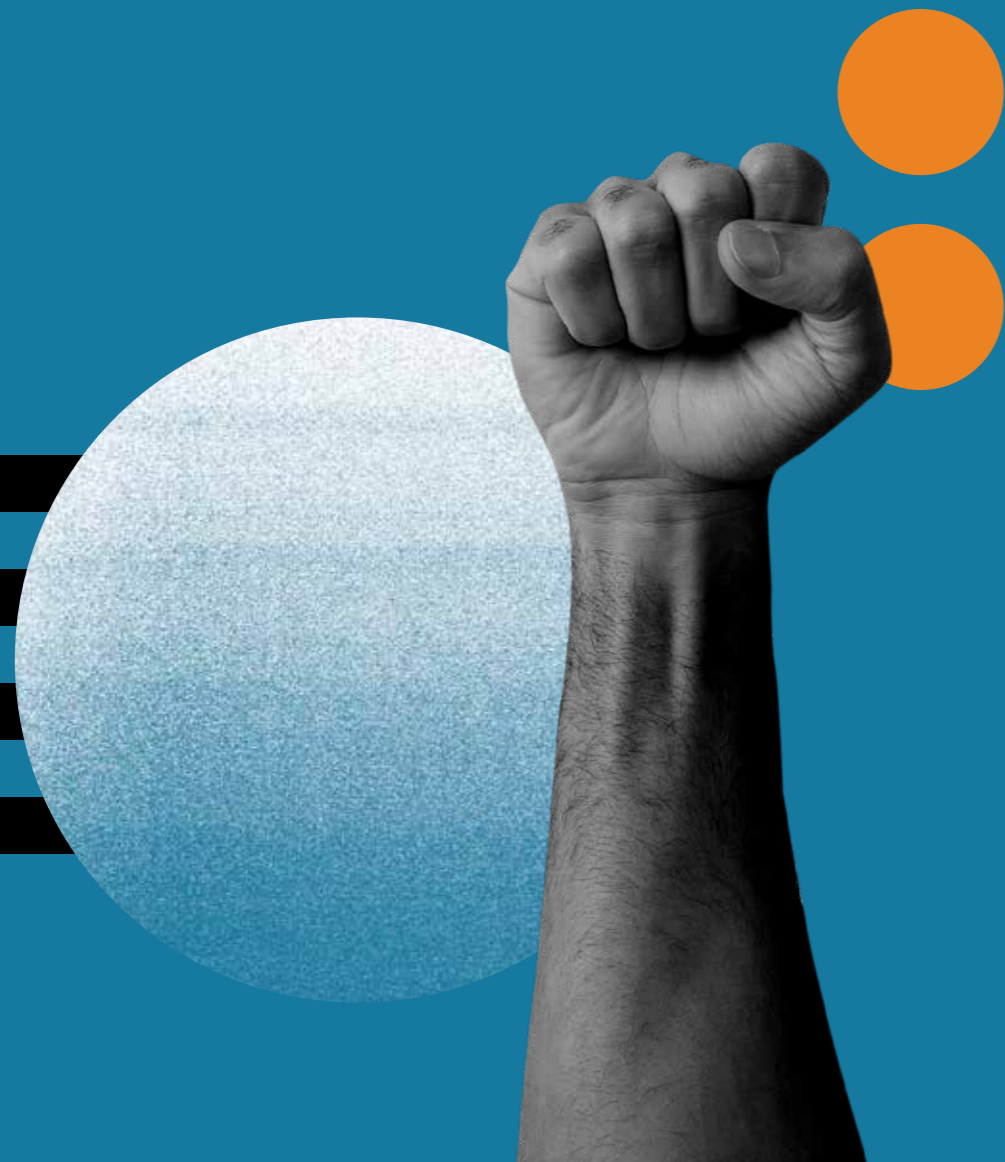


3

The number of countries with OLH offline backup servers.

Our Year in Highlights.

From the launch of a brand new look to a paradigm shift in how we build technology, we take a look back at some of the key OLH activities from the past year.



Rebrand.

2024 was a big year for the OLH. After almost a decade of publishing, we unveiled the OLH’s rebrand with an updated publisher website. Working closely with Brighton-based graphic designer Carly Murphy-Merrydew, the new design pays tribute to the OLH’s political roots and showcases the vibrant humanities research we publish.

We were inspired by early 20th-century avant-gardes, particularly Constructivism and Expressionism. Our collage aesthetic draws together an eclectic mix of contemporary and historical people and objects. This matches our political vision – bringing together humanities scholars, librarians, and activists to return academic journals to the communities that founded them. With its historical artefacts and contemporary design, the new branding and website convey that the OLH is grounded in scholarly tradition and yet open to experimentation, inclusion, and innovation.

Community-based governance.

Thinking about how to embed sustainability throughout our organisational structures, we took the decision to recover the OLH’s former governance structures. In October 2023 we relaunched the Library Board, with 14 elected university and professional librarians meeting to advise the OLH on matters relating to library funding, indexing, discoverability, and bibliodiversity. This was an important step in rebuilding OLH’s community-based governance and will be the first of three Boards to oversee OLH’s overall performance.

We have recently assembled a working group that will evolve into the Publishing Technology Board, to oversee the running and development of our open-source publishing platform, Janeway. Next on our agenda will be reviving the Academic Advisory Board to support the OLH’s academic mission.

Journal flips.

One of the biggest achievements over the past year has been the growth in the OLH's portfolio of leading humanities and social sciences journals. Our agile structure meant we were able to respond quickly to journal applications. These came from editorial teams that had resigned in response to the commercial exploitation of their titles.

We've been joined by 10 world-leading editorial teams, a record number of flips for the OLH, who are migrating their journals to our diamond open access model. These titles broaden our focus to include the social sciences, with titles in sociology, economic history, and labour studies. The actions of these high-profile editorial boards signal a growing movement towards diamond open access that places academic ownership and community governance of journals at its heart.

Our newly flipped journals include:

- *Regeneration: Environment, Art, Culture* (who left the University of Nebraska Press)
- *Political Philosophy* (who left Wiley)
- *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* (who left Wiley)
- *Review of the History of Economic Thought and Methodology* (who left Emerald Publishing)
- *[in]Transition: Journal of Videographic Film & Moving Image Studies* (who left Media Commons)
- *Syntactic Theory & Research* (who left Wiley)
- *Quaker Studies* (who left a Liverpool University Press publishing partnership with OLH to become solely published by OLH)
- *Free & Equal: A Journal of Ethics and Public Affairs* (who left Wiley)
- *International Labour Review* (who left Wiley)
- *Theory & Social Inquiry* (who left Springer Nature)

[in]Transition.

[in]Transition: Journal of Videographic Film & Moving Image Studies moved to the OLH and published its first new issue in March 2024. *[in]Transition* is a trailblazing journal within film and media studies; the first journal in the new field of videographic scholarship, which analyses the moving image in video essay form. It was also an early adopter of digital journal publication, which enabled it to pioneer open peer review.

The first issue published by the OLH also celebrated the journal's 10th anniversary, having originally launched at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) conference in Seattle, March 2014. It includes an article by editor Prof. Catherine Grant with original content from celebrated feminist film theorist and filmmaker Prof. Laura Mulvey.

[in]Transition is the second video essay journal in the OLH portfolio and affirms our commitment to technological innovation in journal publishing. The OLH and *[in]Transition* align in their mission to support cutting-edge humanities scholarship and make best use of digital publishing technologies. As the Journal Manager Jason Mittell, Professor of Film & Media Culture at Middlebury College, writes in the Introduction to Vol. 11, No. 1: 'When we started the process [of] looking for a new publisher, OLH was my dream partner, as they have set the highest standard for innovative open-access publishing in the humanities.'

Visit the journal at:
intransition.openlibhums.org



Theory & Social Inquiry.

Flipping *Theory & Social Inquiry* represents a new direction for the OLH, as we welcome a leading sociology journal to our portfolio of humanities scholarship. Launched as *Theory & Society* in 1974 by renowned American sociologist and activist Alvin Gouldner, 2024 marks the journal's 50th anniversary. Re-launching as *Theory & Social Inquiry* with the OLH in July 2024, the journal will continue Gouldner's mission in fostering critical and theoretical debate within sociology, a field that is increasingly dominated by empirical approaches.

Recognising the need to provide a home for vulnerable and influential journals such as *Theory & Social Inquiry*, the OLH has updated its journal application criteria to include journals that are based in humanities-related social sciences disciplines (another recent flip, *Review of the History of Economic Thought and Methodology*, similarly brings a humanities focus to a social sciences discipline).

Theory & Social Inquiry applied to join the OLH in January 2024, shortly after its entire editorial board resigned in protest at the untenable commercial pressures forced onto the journal by its publisher Springer Nature. As the editors wrote in a published statement: 'At stake here is how much control we academics are willing to give to for-profit publishers who have so much influence over our professional trajectories on the one hand and rely on our uncompensated labor on the other.'

To protect the journal's intellectual autonomy, the editors have established the Theory and Social Inquiry Association, a not-for-profit scholarly association that owns and manages the title. The Association ensures that only sociologists determine the intellectual trajectory of sociology journals.

Visit the new journal at: theoryandsocialinquiry.org



In Focus:

Returning journals to community governance.

As a growing number of journals leave their commercial publishers and flip to the OLH, the question of community governance becomes increasingly important. Unlike other publishers, the OLH does not seek to own the journals it publishes. We see our mission as liberating journals from commercial control and returning them to their academic research communities.

Some journals, often originally set up by scholarly associations dating back decades, already own the intellectual rights to their journal. Many, however, were set up by commercial publishers looking to expand their portfolios and profit from university budgets. In cases where journal editors resign en masse from a commercial publisher such as Wiley, Elsevier, or Springer Nature, the OLH sets up a new journal that is positioned as the 'true legacy' of the original scholarly title.

In 2023-2024, we've worked hard to raise awareness about the importance of academic journals protecting themselves against future commercial acquisition. This has involved giving organisational and legal advice on the best governance structure for each editorial board or scholarly association. We also ran a social media campaign to commemorate the term 'zombie journal,' first used by linguists in 2015 following the mass resignation of editors at the Elsevier journal *Lingua* (who set up a new title, *Glossa*, with the OLH). The academic community refused to recognise the publisher's claim to ownership of the former journal and dubbed the Elsevier title an undead 'zombie,' stumbling on after it had lost the trust of its intellectual community.

Two of our recently accepted journals, *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* and the *International Labour Review (ILR)*, are inspiring examples of community-owned and governed journals. The *Zygon* editorial team set up its own not-for-profit scholarly corporation in Chicago in 2019, following a joint venture established in 1965 among founding partners. *ILR* is owned by the International Labour Organisation, a U.N. Agency based in Switzerland. Other journals that have joined the OLH in 2023-2024 will need to establish their own legal and ownership entities, and we continue to offer help and advice to editorial teams undertaking this important work.

New membership bandings.

In January 2024 we launched the new Platinum membership tier and welcomed the Dutch Research Council (NWO) as our first platinum member. This follows the successful introduction of our higher-tier membership support levels at gold, silver, and bronze in 2022. Introducing this higher tier of support enables funders and libraries who have the means to help the OLH accelerate the number of journals we flip to diamond OA. There is a growing movement of journal editorial boards protesting the extortionate profits demanded by their commercial publishers and seeking an alternative. Higher levels of support give us the ability to respond to this demand and provide a desperately needed not-for-profit alternative for humanities journals.



Awards and media coverage.

The OLH has received quite a bit of media coverage over the past twelve months – both as a publisher intervening into the market to leverage a not-for-profit alternative to commercial publishing, as well as for the content of many of our journal articles.

In an article for the *London Review of Books* published in April 2024, the political economist William Davies cited the OLH as a source of hope amidst the despair of neoliberal academia. Describing academic publishing as ‘one of the most egregious rent-grabs around,’ Davies notes ‘the enthusiasm for projects such as the not-for-profit Open Library of Humanities, set up by Birkbeck academics in 2013, which now publishes 33 open access journals per year. When it’s capitalism that’s the problem, and not markets, the only alternative is post-capitalism’ (*LRB*, Vol. 46 No. 7).

Anticipating a backlash from commercial publishers, our Executive Director, Dr Caroline Edwards, defended the OLH’s not-for-profit diamond open access model in a comment piece published by *The Boston Globe* in May 2024. Titled ‘Open-access journal up to task of rivalling commercial publishers,’ Caroline wrote that: ‘The OLH has demonstrated that it is possible to publish open-access humanities and social sciences research... via a not-for-profit model that uses academic-owned infrastructure.’



Conferences and awards.

This year our team attended several publishing conferences, including the Library Publishing Forum at the University of Minnesota, the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) Conference, and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)’s UP Redux conference held at the University of Edinburgh. We also participated in software conferences, such as DjangoCon Europe and BCS SIGIST’s Summer 2024 Software Testing Conference held at London’s Chartered Institute for IT. A full list of staff presentations and outreach can be found in Appendix A.

We continued our mission to give back to the open access community by supporting smaller initiatives embedding diamond OA publishing in academic programmes. In November 2023 we announced three recipients of the OLH Open Access Award 2023. These were: ‘Data papers,’ a hybrid event organised by University College Cork in March 2024 to help raise awareness of the benefits of openly sharing humanities data in the wider academic community; *Grassroots*, a new open-access platform of the *Journal of Political Ecology (JPE)*, which provides a space for grassroots initiatives/movements and academics to engage in political ecology debates (the award funded an upgrade to the platform’s digital infrastructure); and *Post45*, the diamond OA journal of contemporary American literature and culture (the award funded two article prize competitions designed to support early career and contingent scholars).



In July 2024, the OLH was the subject of a *Guardian* opinion piece written by Prof. Arash Abizadeh. Abizadeh is Angus Professor of Political Science at McGill University in Canada and a former editor of *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, one of the world’s leading journals in political philosophy. Titled ‘Academic journals are a lucrative scam – and we’re determined to change that,’ the piece describes the editorial board’s frustration with their commercial publisher, Wiley, and their decision to resign en masse and launch a new journal with the OLH in September 2024.

Articles published in OLH journals also made the headlines. ‘Who Put the ‘a’ in ‘Thomas a Becket’? The History of a Name from the Angevins to the 18th Century’ by Dr John Jenkins (University of York) was featured in *The Times* in March 2023. Dr Sorcha Sinéad de Brún’s (University of Limerick) ‘Island Girl, Universal Woman: Peig: A Scéal Féin (1998) as Narrative of Class, Labour and Femininity,’ was featured in an article for the *RTÉ / The Irish Times* on ‘Why everything you thought you knew about Peig Sayers is wrong.’

In June 2024, OLH’s new journal *Political Philosophy* published an article titled ‘Epistemic Communities in American Public Law’ by Cass Robert Sunstein, the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard who worked in the Obama administration from 2009 to 2012 as Director of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. In 2018 Sunstein was awarded the Holberg Prize for his work in ‘reshap[ing] our understanding of the relationship between the modern regulatory state and constitutional law.’ As the Prize Committee noted, Prof. Sunstein ‘is widely regarded as the leading scholar of administrative law in the U.S., and he is by far the most cited legal scholar in the United States and probably the world.’

Collaboration with other organisations.

We've worked hard to make the OLH's publishing activities more sustainable in 2023-2024. This has involved creating opportunities for professional development across the entire OLH team through collaboration with partner organisations. Our team regularly lend their expertise as consultants to national and international-level publishing programmes. In 2023-2024 this included contributing to the DIAMAS and CRAFT-OA projects (both funded under the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme), the UKRI's review of open access policy, and the cOAlition S consortium supported by Science Europe.

In 2023, the OLH collaborated with DIAMAS (Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication). We have reported on community ownership and governance models for academic journals, editorial quality, and research integrity to help DIAMAS draft a new framework to ensure quality standards in institutional publishing.

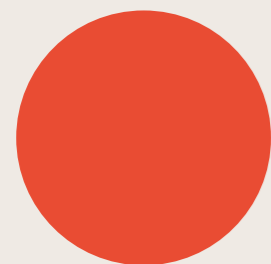
In January 2024, the OLH became a Strategic Affiliate of the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC), an independent community-led membership association of academic and research libraries and library consortia engaged in scholarly publishing. We also joined the UK-based Open Institutional Publishing Association (OIPA) in March 2024. Our Editorial Director, Dr Rose Harris-Birtill, was invited to join the Crossref Membership and Fees Committee in February 2024. This provides governance oversight to Crossref, a not-for-profit organisation that improves scholarly communications through sharing metadata and making open-source tools and services.

In September 2023 Dr Paula Clemente Vega, our Marketing Officer, joined the Library Outreach Working Group for Copim, the international partnership of researchers, universities, librarians, OA book publishers, and infrastructure providers. Paula also continued work on the Fully OA Publishers Working Group at the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) and reviewed grant applications for the Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) team. Paula's expertise contributed to the 'Supporting No-Fee Open Access Publishing in Africa' programme, which is organised by EIFL, African Journals Online (AJOL), and the West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN).

In October 2023, our Executive Director Dr Caroline Edwards joined the OASPA Executive Committee. Caroline spoke on two panel discussions at the OASPA conference in September 2023 and a panel on 'Equitable Open Access' organised by OASPA at the Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers' (ALPSP) UP Redux conference in Edinburgh in May 2024.

Our tech team have been working closely with Michigan Publishing Services (MPub) at the University of Michigan Press to integrate their systems and offer joint services to open access publishers. In May 2024, Andy Byers, Director of Publishing Technologies, and Dr Katherine Parker-Hay, Publishing Development Officer, joined Jason Colman of MPub on a panel discussion at the Library Publishing Forum held at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Finally, our Senior Publishing Technologies Developer Joe Muller was accepted to the Staffing Survey Task Force of the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC) for a 2-year term, starting May 2024. The task force will survey library publishing programs about their staffing and labour practices, including job scopes, degrees and qualifications, and professional development of staff.



**"The Open Library of Humanities
has an excellent track record of
community engagement amongst
the humanities disciplines."**

Vanessa Proudman
Director, SPARC Europe





Built in-house by the OLH's software engineers, Janeway is the world-leading open-source digital publishing platform that hosts OLH journals. It also supports the publishing activities of a growing number of university presses.

This year the OLH tech team have focused on the sustainability and communication of our operations. This has involved more public-facing interactions and presentations, embedding our commitment to accessibility within our development cycles, and pivoting towards software development that is informed by user experience.

Launch of Janeway's podcast and biennial symposium.

With the expansion of our tech team in Autumn 2023, we recognised the need to put mechanisms in place to protect the qualities that editors and authors love about Janeway. This includes the grassroots political spirit that informed Janeway's emergence within the open-source Django software community, as well as editors' direct access to our software engineers (something that is highly unusual within academic publishing). Protecting this culture was important to us, given that Janeway was made possible because we have operated as a small team working exclusively with mission-aligned university press partners.

In March 2024, we launched *The Engineering Deck: A Podcast for the Janeway User Community* which will facilitate this community and improve communication around software development timeframes. Dr Katherine Parker-Hay, who works on user experience, will interview our lead software engineers about the most significant updates to the Janeway codebase. Each episode will be scheduled in tandem with a new software release.

September 2024 also saw the launch of our first international Janeway symposium. Held as a hybrid event online and in-person at Birkbeck, University of London, 'The Lower Decks' celebrated Janeway's 5th birthday, bringing users together to explore future directions for the platform. There were presentations on best practice, future software developments, and panels exploring how our community use Janeway to support innovations in open access.

We will run the Janeway symposium as a biennial event, with the next symposium taking place in September 2025. The hybrid symposium will also host meetings of the OLH Publishing Technology Board and an award ceremony for the Open Library of Humanities Award. The award recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of open access.

Inauguration of the Janeway Governance Board.

With the Janeway user community expanding rapidly, this year felt like the right time to formalise Janeway's structures of accountability and transparency. The first Janeway symposium saw the resurrection of our governance structures in the form of the OLH Publishing Technology Board, which will gather the expertise of a select group of people who use, or have used, Janeway for their own publishing. The board will meet annually (in person at the biennial Janeway symposium, alternating with a virtual meeting) to ensure that our important community-led infrastructure is growing in line with user needs and industry standards.

Shift to human-centred approaches and UX design.

Although Janeway has foregrounded innovation since its inception, our small development team has had to rely on software-centred design methods, given the limitations on staff capacity. Over the past year, as our tech team has grown, we have pivoted toward human-centred approaches that ensure we design our software around the needs of the OLH's community of libraries, editors, and humanities scholars.

We have invested in a member of staff who will lead on user experience (UX) projects to achieve this. UX research has already informed the design of the new OLH and Janeway websites, and further UX research will guide the redesign of our copyediting interface on Janeway. Looking ahead to next year, we will collaborate with partner organisations to take a UX-informed approach to a redesign of our dashboard and admin interfaces.

Review of software development cycles.

As the OLH’s tech team has grown over the past year, it has been necessary to review our software development cycles. This ensures that we have a sustainable system in place for delivering targets set out in our Janeway development roadmap. We have reinstated and formalised our three-month development sprints, with retrospectives and backlog refinement reintroduced. With this structure firmly in place, we will be in a better position to undertake UX work on an ongoing basis as part of Janeway development cycles. We will also be able to work more systematically through our backlog of issues so that we can be confident we are building Janeway in line with community needs.

Investment in accessibility.

The Accessibility and Open Access revolutions are aligned movements. This year we recruited our new accessibility specialist developer, Dr Steph Driver, who will use the Janeway Accessibility Roadmap to facilitate, advocate, and code our accessibility efforts. Since joining the OLH, Steph has run a series of audits to ensure we are meeting our legal obligations for accessibility. These are set out in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), which help make digital content more accessible to people with disabilities. In the longer term, we will focus on improved accessibility in user content, exploring how Janeway can take an educational role in supporting the creation of accessible user output within academic journal publishing.

Indexing, archiving and documentation.

This year we also hired a dedicated member of staff, Siobhan Haimé, to help us improve our indexing and archiving. Siobhan's role as Publishing Technologies Librarian will draw on her interest in digital transformation and technological advances in librarianship. Siobhan is working to improve our metadata and discovery standards by exploring the Central Discovery Index (CDI) with Ex Libris, assessing Portico and CLOCKSS, updating the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and working with Google Scholar to improve our indexing. We also initiated the overhaul of our user documentation which we plan to make more user friendly, with technical content better translated for everyday users.

Migrations and New Partnerships.

Building our own publishing platform has been a key part of reaching sustainability for the OLH. Since it launched in 2018, Janeway has been used by other publishers who recognised the value of an open-source platform protected by a Copyleft license (which means no part of Janeway can ever be co-opted by commercial infrastructure providers).

In 2023-2024 the number of university presses and scholarly associations migrating their journals publishing onto the Janeway platform continued to grow rapidly. As of July 2024, Janeway supports 43 open access publishers who pay to use our hosted services. New publishing partners over the past twelve months include: UCL Press, UMass Amherst, Aperiopress, University of Aberdeen, University of Wollongong, the Student Network for Open Science, Columbia Teaching College, Carbon Plan, the British Association for Contemporary Literary Studies (BACLS), and the University of Oxford’s Voltaire Foundation.

Some of these migrations have involved the large-scale transfer of journals portfolios that required complex technical work, with our software engineers coding new parts of Janeway that will benefit the entire publishing community. The UCL Press migration of fifteen journals enabled our tech team to provide a more intuitive, improved navigation experience for UCL's global readership. Other large migrations this year have included the California Digital Library, which has moved 150 journals over to Janeway, and the migration of the OLH journal *Zygon*, which involved flipping back content dating back to March 1966 to diamond open access.

Cyber Resilience.

In Summer 2023, we reviewed our cyber resilience strategy at OLH. This involved running a disaster recovery drill, creating a critical scenario that simulated the potential erasure of OLH’s data volume storing files and removal of access to our main application server. Redeploying the OLH’s instance of Janeway to a brand-new server outside the affected region, the team successfully restored the OLH publisher site within three hours, with minimal data loss (limited to the last twelve hours since the most recent backup).

As we enter a world of increasing risks to cybersecurity, the regular scheduling of disaster recovery is imperative. To mitigate against such risks, the OLH’s information security management follows ISO 27001, the international standard for data security. This means we have robust systems in place to protect our data, both online and offline, using computer networks known as demilitarized zones (DMZs), which provide the highest degree of security from external attacks.

All OLH data is segregated, protecting sensitive information, mitigating risks of viruses passing between servers, and ensuring the continuity of OLH’s critical operations. We encrypt our data when ‘at rest’ and for all transmissions between servers. As an additional layer of security, the OLH maintains offline backup servers in three countries on two different continents (in the US, Scotland and Spain) to mitigate against the risk of cyberattack in any part of the world.



"I'm extremely proud of what the OLH team has achieved this year. Given the challenges facing humanities scholars, non-commercial publishing models like ours feel more important than ever."

Dr Caroline Edwards
Executive Director, Open Library of Humanities



Staff, Diversity and Inclusion.

The OLH adheres to Birkbeck’s equality and diversity action plan. From its inception, we’ve been proactive in thinking about how equity and diversity structure all aspects of our activities. Equity lies at the heart of the OLH, from the removal of price and permission barriers to accessing knowledge, to our pioneering remote-working policies.

This approach has been informed by our co-founder Prof. Martin Eve’s work in disability rights campaigning.



Investing in staff to help us grow.

This year marks a transition for the OLH, strengthening ties with our home institution at Birkbeck, University of London. Setting out a plan for sustainable growth, Birkbeck has invested in our team and helped us to attract and retain talented staff with specialist skills in academic research, editing, librarianship, accessibility, software development, and website design.

Sustainability has been at the heart of our publishing strategy. We made three new appointments (Publishing Development Officer, Publishing Technologies Librarian, and Publishing Technologies Developer). With these appointments we have been able to strengthen our editorial support and undertake crucial work on website accessibility. Our new staff will help the OLH lead the sector in demonstrating how academic publishing can foster inclusivity and equity, drawing on lessons from the disability rights movements.



Dr Steph Driver
Publishing Technologies Developer

I am pushing for OLH to move beyond compliance with accessibility standards to

become a leader in this area. I work proactively with our audiences to counter potential barriers to accessing OLH digital academic content.

Steph joined OLH in October 2023 as a Janeway developer. She believes that Open Access should be synonymous with Access for All and is leading a project to improve accessibility across our journals platform. Steph combines her skills in coding with a background in humanities research (her PhD explored human:computer synergy within the creative writing process). Steph is also an educator, with experience of teaching assistive technology, leading software and poetry workshops, teaching computer science and community TEFL classes, while training her assistance dog, Archer.

In addition to working on the Janeway stack and OLH’s accessibility compliance, Steph hopes to grow her role by helping the OLH communicate what we do in more visual terms. Steph has always been drawn to visual learning, whether that be 3D poetry, sketching when teaching on the whiteboard, or diagramming to produce software documentation. Over time, Steph will be bringing a multi-sensory, multi-coded, accessible approach to the OLH.



Siobhan Haimé
Publishing Technologies Librarian

I want to contribute to OLH creating a more diverse and equitable knowledge

landscape, empowering those historically disenfranchised within higher education.

Siobhan provides support and training for Janeway users. This involves writing software documentation, outreach, and indexing and archiving the OLH’s publications – focussing on metadata streams. Siobhan has experience in technology and AI, university publishing, and academic librarianship. This enables her to help the OLH communicate more effectively to our core audiences – library communities, university publishers, and humanities researchers.

She also continues to lead initiatives supporting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in academic librarianship. Siobhan currently co-leads the Global Equity Network for the UK-based Academic Libraries North consortium (a sub-group of SCONUL, the Society of College, National and University Libraries). She is also an editor for UKSG Insights and is part of the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortia’s tender working group. Siobhan is one of the inaugural members of the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis for Racial Justice collective and has led on reading list diversification, inclusive syllabi, and knowledge equity more generally.

Staff (August 2024), in alphabetical order.



Andy Byers
Director of Publishing
Technology



Dr Rose Harris-Birtill
Editorial Director



Dr Paula Clemente Vega
Marketing Officer



Naomi Morris
CHASE Doctoral Training
Partnership Intern



Dr Steph Driver
Publishing Technologies
Developer



Joseph Muller
Senior Publishing
Technologies Developer



Dr Caroline Edwards
Executive Director



Dr Katherine Parker-Hay
Publishing Development
Officer



Dr Simon Everett
Editorial Officer



Mauro Sanchez
Senior Publishing
Technologies Developer



Siobhan Haimé
Publishing Technologies
Librarian

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion data.

We're proud that our homeworking policy allows the OLH to recruit talented people from across the globe, as well as offer a better work-life balance for parents and those with caring responsibilities. This policy has also given us the impetus to consider how we can excel as an accessible and disability-inclusive employer. 40% of our team are disabled, which is far above the national average for the higher education (HE) sector and reflects our organisation's roots in the disability rights movement.

Below is a breakdown of our workforce diversity, set against the university sector equivalents according to the latest HESA data.

Workforce diversity	OLH staff	HE sector
Women	64%	50%
Women in senior management	67%	48%
Black and minority ethnic	20%	22%
Disabled	40%	7%

Renewed focus on accessibility.

A key priority for 2024 has been instigating a shift in our approach to accessibility in our software development. We see this as essential to the OLH's role as a leading publisher. Improving digital standards for academic journals publishing is integral to our mission. When she joined the team in October 2023 as a Publishing Technologies Developer, Dr Steph Driver put her specialism in accessibility campaigning to use. Her first task was to ensure the OLH will meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA standard for website accessibility. This work will be completed by the end of 2024.

Fees calculator built for equitable library membership.

The OLH has always offered banded fees to its library members, based on country and size of institution, to tackle publishing legacies that privilege wealthier institutions in the Global North at the expense of scholars working in the Global South.

In line with our commitment to transparency, this year we built a calculator that adjusts OLH membership fees by country using data from the World Bank on gross national income (GNI) per capita. While there is no perfect indicator of economic disparity by country and region, GNI is better than the alternatives at tracking purchasing power around the world. Drawing on GNI data, we can now respond more appropriately to changes in inflation and economic trends when calculating membership costs.

Though we will still have the flexibility to address exceptional cases, using a mathematical and evidence-based model for calculating fees provides transparency to our members and allows us to determine a university's ability to contribute to open access global equity.

Multilingual publishing.

This year we continued to work on improving our multilingual publishing and reaching audiences beyond the Anglosphere. Our flagship journal, *Open Library of Humanities Journal (OLHJ)*, was most read in the United States, India, Singapore, Germany, China, and Ireland demonstrating a wide-ranging international readership.

The journal continued production on a Spanish-language Special Collection, ‘Colonialidades en Disputa: Discursos sobre Colonialismo y Raza en el Estado Español’ / ‘Colonialities in Dispute: Discourses on Colonialism and Race in Spain’ and we also funded translation of the *OLHJ* article ‘Geralt of Poland: *The Witcher 3* Between Epistemic Disobedience and Imperial Nostalgia’ into Brazilian Portuguese. The article, which explores the blockbuster role-playing videogame based on a Polish fantasy novel series, has been read more than 11,000 times since it was first published in 2018.

Our German-language journal, *Die Zeitschrift für Fantastikforschung (ZFF)*, published 8 articles and the multilingual journal *Genealogy+Critique (G+C)* published 7 articles in German. Our Canadian-based digital humanities journal, *Digital Studies / Le champ numérique*, published 3 articles in French and Spanish.

This year has also been an exciting one for multilingual publishing on our Janeway platform. In July 2024 our tech team began a project to build multilingual functionality into Janeway’s publishing workflows. Until this point, we’ve been able to publish articles in any language, provided that authors and editors navigated the review, editing, and production workflows in English. Starting with French and Spanish, we’ve invested in substantial software development that will allow authors and editors to navigate these workflows in their chosen language. This functionality is not currently offered by any other publishing platform and is crucial to tackling the ongoing colonial impact of English being the default language in global scholarly publishing.



In Focus:

***International Labour Review* and multilingual journal publishing.**

In April 2023 we accepted an application from the *International Labour Review* to join OLH. The journal is owned by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), a U.N. agency founded in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles. The organisation was designed to promote social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. The ILO brings together governments, employers, and workers of 187 Member States, to set labour standards, develop policies, and devise programmes promoting decent employment conditions for all.

Launched in 1921, the *International Labour Review* contributes to policy discussions and decisions in areas related to work, including economics, law, industrial relations, social policy, sociology, and history. The journal fosters diversity and equality of opportunity by strongly encouraging submissions in English, French, and Spanish by authors of all generations and from all world regions.

The journal's migration from Wiley to the OLH will involve complex technical work. The journal has more than 100 years of back content, which requires carefully importing into our system to check that all metadata are correct. Our tech team will need to develop multilingual functionality in Janeway so that articles can be submitted in English, French, and Spanish. This bespoke coding work will take several months and ensure equity in the submissions process, so that authors will be able to navigate the journal’s entire system in these three languages.

Visit the journal at:
irl-rit.org

“The OLH 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

Financial Overview.

The OLH is incorporated into Birkbeck, University of London. Under the terms of the UK Charities Act 2011 Birkbeck is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS) and is accountable to the OfS for fulfilling its obligations under UK charity law. OLH income and expenditure is audited as part of Birkbeck’s annual financial statements released in Autumn each year.

As a not-for-profit organisation, surplus income is reinvested back into the OLH. This includes rising staff costs, investing in software development, and contributing to organisational support at Birkbeck, where the OLH team is based.



Expenditure.

Staff Costs.	
Staff Salaries & Pensions	£525,001

Publishing Costs.	
Archiving, DOIs & Preservation	£7,005
Website Hosting & Domain Registration	£9,716
Typesetting	£74,408
Total	£91,129

Digital Office Costs.	
Computer Hardware & Software, Equipment	£6,980
Digital Security & IT Infrastructure	£7,250
Professional Memberships	£1,096
Office Support	£5,013
Total	£20,339

Marketing & Travel.	
Conference Travel & Accommodation	£5,738
Printed Publicity Materials	£761
Graphic Design	£15,410
Total	£21,909

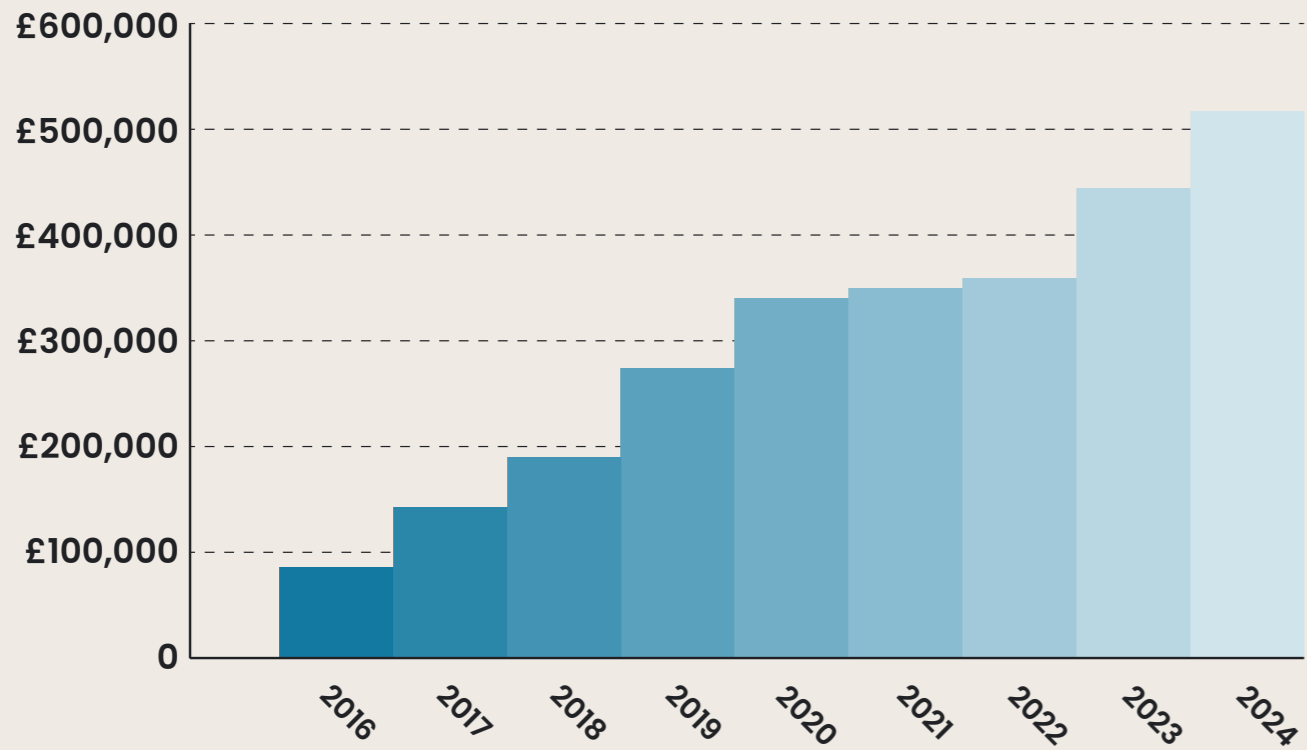
Total operating expenditure	£658,378
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Income.

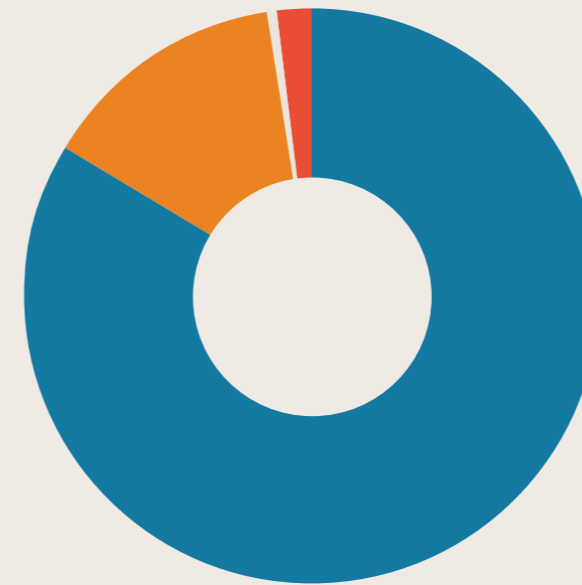
Library Memberships	£509,825
Janeway Hosted Services	£187,976

Total Income	£697,801
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Library income.

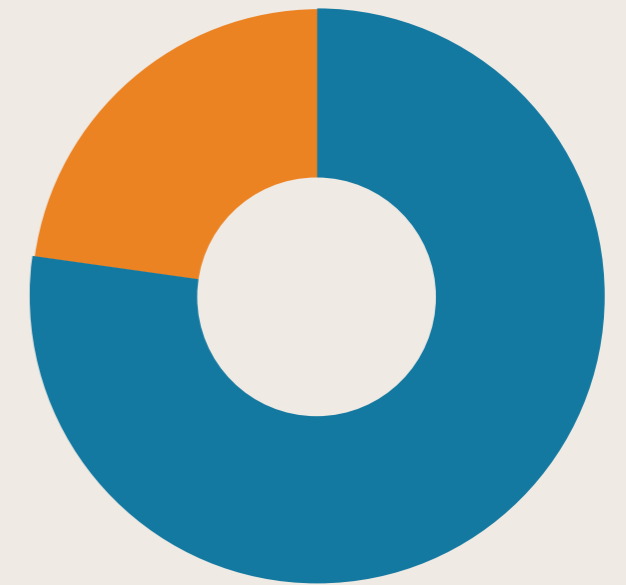


OLH expenses in 2023-24.



- Staff salaries
- Publishing costs
- Digital office costs
- Marketing & travel

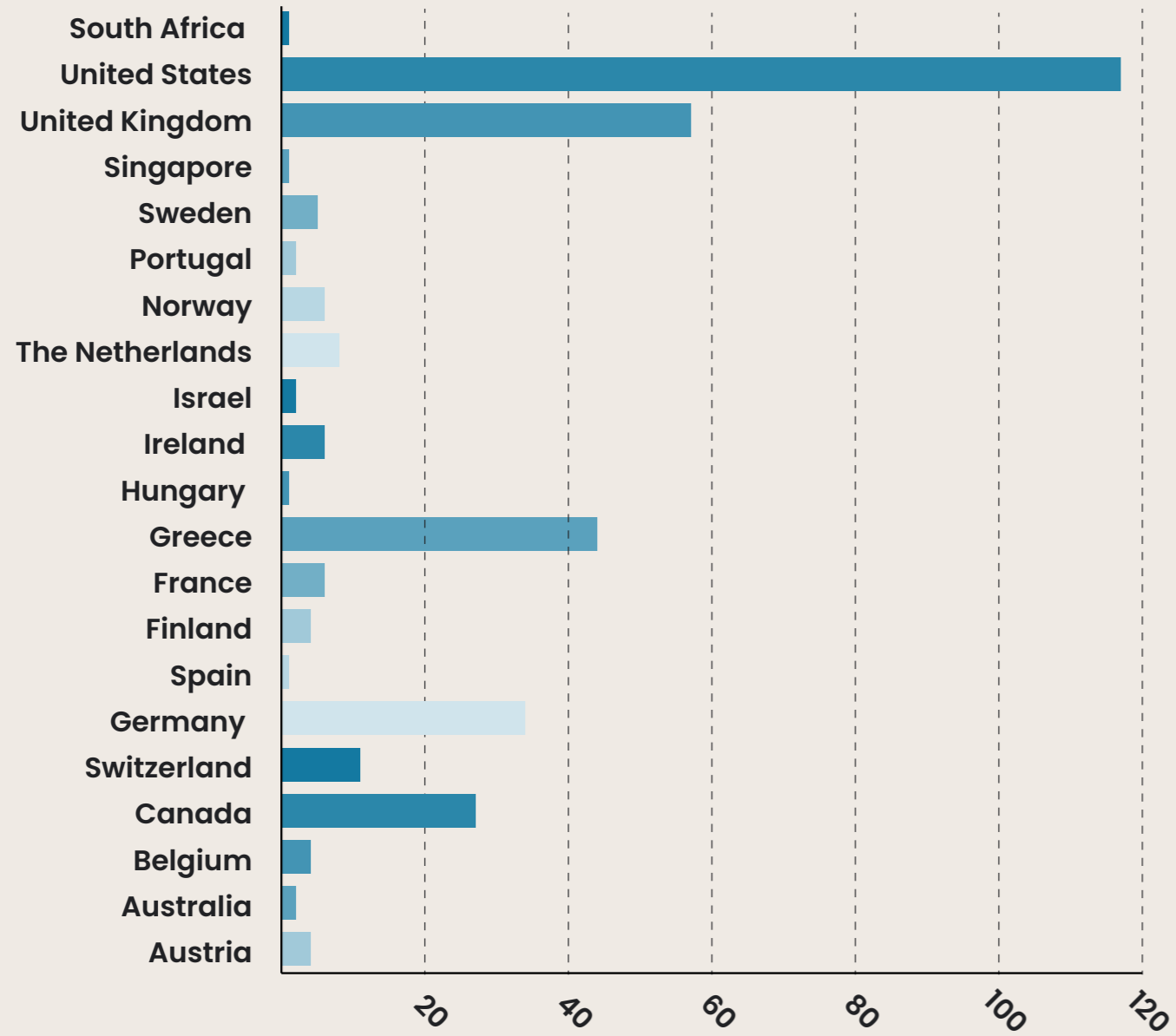
OLH income streams.



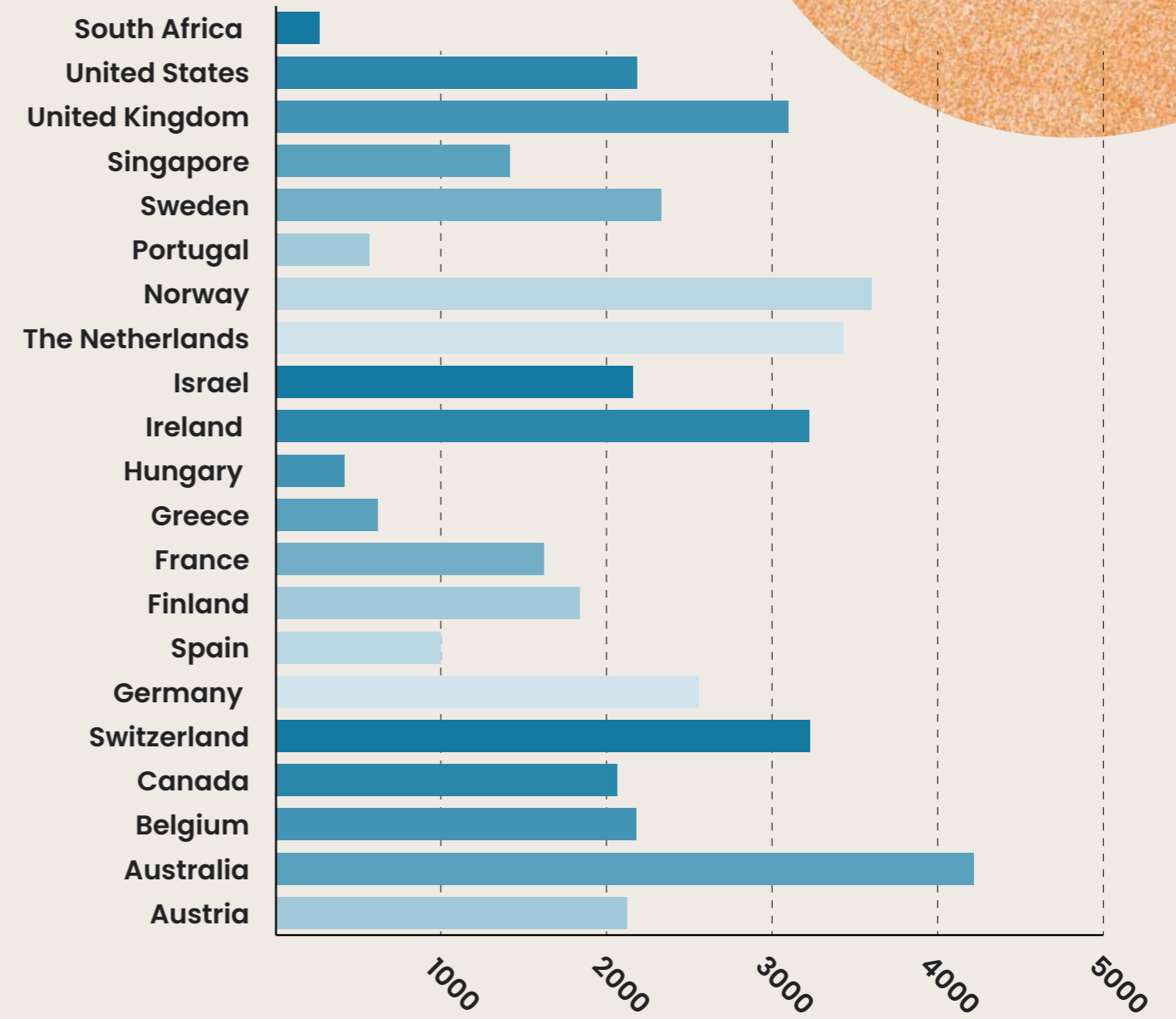
- Library income
- Janeway income



No. of library members by country.



Average membership cost (£).



Progress on Key Priorities.

This year we've focussed our efforts on key priorities that embed sustainability at the OLH. From building secure long-term funding to improving our publishing workflows and stress testing our cyber resilience, we have improved our operations in 2023-2024.



Priority	Strategy	Status
Increase library membership	Introduce a new platinum band (£15,000), continue free rider email campaign, undertake outreach to libraries already supporting other OA initiatives	Completed
Support the professional development of the entire OLH team	Identify training opportunities for OLH staff, set up a mentor scheme for OLH staff to be mentored by staff at other OA organisations	Some training completed, mentor scheme planning underway
Flip high-ranking journals	Successful flip of 10 internationally leading humanities & social sciences journals to OLH	Completed
Review and reinstate software development cycles	Schedule 3-month development sprints, with retrospectives and backlog refinement reintroduced	Completed
Review journal flipping & back content migration process to embed efficient workflow	Audit of current workflow completed, new improved workflow agreed & documented	Completed, new workflow will be operational during Autumn 2024-Spring 2025
Secure investment to support the Editorial team	Prepare a business case to invest in a new Journals Manager to oversee OLH journals & build strong relationships with editorial teams	Partially completed; awaiting decision in Autumn 2025
Conduct OLH rebrand and launch new website	Design a rebrand informed by UX interviews, find a suitable graphic designer, implement the design in-house with custom development work	Completed
Conduct Janeway rebrand and launch new website	Design a rebrand informed by UX interviews, find a suitable graphic designer, implement the design in-house with custom development work	Partially completed, Janeway design assets received and new website build underway
Integrate UX into Janeway development cycles	Schedule UX work on an ongoing basis as part of Janeway development cycles	Partially completed, initial UX priorities identified
Reinstate OLH governance structure	Reinstate 3 governance boards: Library Board, Publishing Technology Board, and Academic Advisory Board.	Partially completed, Library Board elected in Summer 2023 and meeting bi-annually, working group set up to prepare for reinstating the Publishing Technology Board, organisation of Academic Advisory Board to do in 2024-2025
Increase diversity of tech team through new recruitment	Consider diversity and inclusion in the hiring of 2 new staff: Publishing Technology Developer and Publishing Technology Librarian	Completed. 50% of the tech team are women and 40% of the tech team are disabled.
Increase library outreach	Organise and participate in events relating to libraries	Completed, OLH staff have spoken at 10 conferences and events on OA (see Appendix A)

"There are so many arguments about how to make open access work without publishing articles in high volumes, automating all infrastructure, or making lots of profit. OLH just went and fixed it for everyone."

Dr Samuel Moore,
Scholarly Communication Specialist, Cambridge University Library



Thank You.

We are grateful for the generous support of our international library members. Your ongoing investment in the OLH makes diamond open access publishing sustainable. By diverting funds away from commercial subscriptions, you are helping build a not-for-profit publishing future.



Supporters by country.

Austria

Academy of Fine Arts
FWF (The Austrian Science Fund)
University of Graz
Vienna University Library and Archive Services

Australia

University of Sydney
University of the Sunshine Coast

Belgium

University of Antwerp
Ghent University
KU Leuven
Université de Liège

Canada

Brock University
Carleton University
Concordia University
Dalhousie University
MacEwan University
McGill University
McMaster University
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Mount Royal University
Nipissing University
Ontario Tech University
Queen's University
Ryerson University

Simon Fraser University

Trent University
Université de Montréal
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Guelph
University of Ottawa
University of Saskatchewan
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo
University of Winnipeg
Western University
Wilfrid Laurier University
York University

Finland

Abo Akademi University
University of Eastern Finland
University of Helsinki
University of Jyväskylä

France

Ecole Normale Supérieure
Université de Lorraine
Université de Paris
Université de Strasbourg - Service des Bibliothèques
Université Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis
Université Paris Nanterre

Germany

Bibliotheks- und Informationssystem der Universität Oldenburg
Bielefeld University Library
Freie Universität Berlin
Giessen University Library
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS), Library
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt Halle
Max Planck Digital Library
Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
Rostock University Library
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Saarland University and State Library
Sächsische Landesbibliothek Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden

Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB)

TU Braunschweig / Universitätsbibliothek

Universitaets- und Landesbibliothek Duesseldorf

Universität Potsdam

Universitätsbibliothek der TU Berlin

Universitätsbibliothek Duisburg-Essen

Universitätsbibliothek Kassel

Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig

Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen

Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn

Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt

Universität Trier

University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

University Library of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

University Library of Muenster University

University of Bremen

University of Cologne, represented by Universitäts- und Stadtbibliothek Koeln

University of Konstanz
University of Regensburg

Greece

Academy of Athens
Aegean University
Agricultural University of Athens

Aquaculture Centre of Acheloos S.A. (ICHTHICA)

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Athena - Research and Innovation Center in Information Communication and Knowledge Technologies

Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA)

Athens University of Economics & Business

Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming"

Centre for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES)

Centre for Research and Technology (C.E.R.T.H.)

Foundation for Research and Technology (FORTH)

General Secretariat of Research and Technology - Ministry of Education

Harokopio University

Hellenic Agricultural Organization Demeter (former NAGREF)

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)

Hellenic Mediterranean University

Hellenic Open University
Hellenic Parliament Library
Hellenic PASTEUR Institute

Institute of Educational Policy
International Hellenic University

Ionion University
National Centre for Social Research (EKKE)

National Centre of Scientific Research
National Hellenic Research Foundation & National Documentation Centre

National Library of Greece

National Observatory of Athens

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

Panteion University
School of Pedagogical & Technological Education (A.S.PE.T.E.)

Technical University of Crete

University of Athens
University of Crete

University of Ioannina

University of Macedonia

University of Patras

University of Peloponnese

University of Piraeus

University of Thessaly

University of Thrace
University of West Attica
University of Western Macedonia

Hungary

Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics

Ireland

Dublin City University
Maynooth University
NUI Galway

University College Cork

University College Dublin

University of Limerick

Israel

Tel Aviv University
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Netherlands

Leiden University
National Library of the Netherlands
Radboud Universiteit

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Tilburg University

University of Amsterdam

University of Groningen

Vrije University Amsterdam

Norway

Molde University College

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

University of Bergen

University of Oslo

University of South-Eastern Norway

Portugal

Universidade do Minho

University of Lisbon

Sweden

Chalmers University of Technology Library

National Library of Sweden

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond

Stockholm University

Uppsala University

Singapore

National University of Singapore

Spain

Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

Switzerland

ETH Zurich

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Hochschule Luzern

Université de Neuchâtel, Bibliothèque des lettres et sciences humaines

University Library of Bern

University of Basel
University of Geneva

University of St. Gallen Library

University of Zurich

Zentral- und Hochschulbibliothek Luzern

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste

United Kingdom

Bath Spa University

Birkbeck, University of London

Birmingham City University

Brunel University

Cardiff University

De Montfort University

Durham University

Edge Hill University

Falmouth University

Goldsmiths, University of London

Imperial College London

King's College London

Lancaster University

Liverpool John Moores University

London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

London South Bank University

Loughborough University



Manchester Metropolitan University
 Newcastle University
 Northumbria University
 Nottingham Trent University
 Queen Mary, University of London
 Queen's University, Belfast
 Roehampton University
 School of Advanced Study (SAS)
 Sheffield Hallam University
 SOAS, University of London
 The British Library
 The Open University
 The University of Chichester
 University College London (UCL)
 University of Bath
 University of Birmingham
 University of Brighton
 University of Bristol
 University of Cambridge
 University of East Anglia
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Exeter
 University of Glasgow
 University of Huddersfield
 University of Hull
 University of Leeds
 University of Leicester

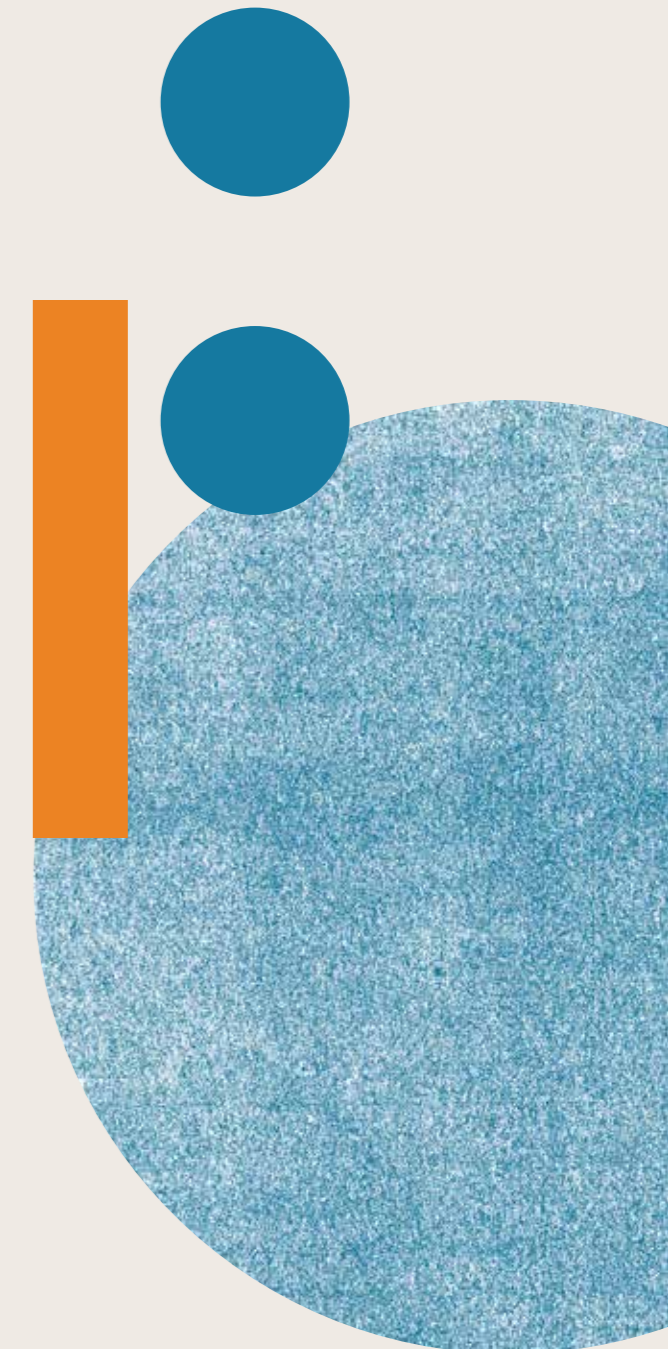
University of Lincoln
 University of Liverpool
 University of Manchester
 University of Oxford
 University of Reading
 University of Salford
 University of Sheffield
 University of Southampton
 University of St. Andrews
 University of Stirling
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Surrey
 University of Sussex
 University of York
United States of America
 Allegheny College
 Arkansas State University
 Bates College
 Baylor University
 Beloit College
 Bethel University
 Boston College
 Boston University
 Brown University Library
 California State University, East Bay
 Carleton College
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Claremont Colleges
 Coates Library, Trinity University

Colby College
 Columbia University Libraries
 Concordia University Texas
 Cornell University
 Dartmouth College
 Davidson College
 DePauw University
 Dickinson College
 Digital Theological Library/Claremont School of Theology
 Duke University
 Florida Southern College
 Florida State University Libraries
 Franklin & Marshall College Library
 Furman University
 George Mason University
 Gettysburg College
 Grinnell College
 Gustavus Adolphus College
 Hamilton College
 Harvard Library
 Indiana University
 Iowa State University Library
 James Madison University Libraries
 Johns Hopkins University
 Kenyon College Library
 Loyola Marymount University
 Macalester College

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 Miami University Libraries
 Michigan State University
 Montana State University
 Mount St. Mary's University
 New York University
 Northwestern University
 Oberlin College
 Occidental College
 Ohio State University
 Ohio University
 Oklahoma State University
 Penn State University
 Portland State University
 Princeton University
 Purdue University Libraries
 Rutgers University - New Brunswick
 Santa Clara University
 Skidmore College
 Stanford University
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University
 Temple University
 Texas Christian University
 The George Washington University
 The University of Iowa
 The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Tufts University

University of Arizona Libraries
 University of Arkansas
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Davis
 University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Los Angeles
 University of California, Merced
 University of California, Riverside
 University of California, San Diego
 University of California, San Francisco
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 University of Chicago
 University of Delaware
 University of Florida
 University of Illinois
 University of Kansas
 University of Maryland Libraries – College Park
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln
 University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
 University of Oklahoma

University of Oregon
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Richmond
 University of Rochester
 University of San Francisco
 University of South Florida
 University of Texas at Austin
 University of the Pacific
 University of the South
 University of Utah
 University of Virginia Library
 University of Washington
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Virginia Tech
 Washington and Lee University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Wayne State University
 West Virginia University
 Whittier College
 Yale University
South Africa
 University of the Witwatersrand



Looking Ahead.

As we look to the year ahead, we will prioritise putting the systems in place to ensure that the OLH's transitional phase in 2023-2024 has lasting impact. This will mean scrutinising our infrastructure, deepening our professional networks, and evolving a balanced work culture to retain staff. 84% of OLH's running costs go directly to staff salaries and pensions – the people behind the OLH make it the success that it is. We will continue to offer a supportive environment for our talented staff to develop their careers in open access publishing.



Governance structure.

Following on from the restoration of the Janeway Publishing Technology Board and the Library Boards, 2024-25 will see the revival of the OLH's Academic Advisory Board. The Academic Advisory Board was instrumental during the inception of the OLH and provided early direction for the project. As we enter a new phase of expansion and consolidation, the Board will guide the OLH in protecting the sustainability of our diamond OA funding model on behalf of the humanities scholarly communities we serve. Composed of leading academics, publishing professionals, and university leaders, the Board will meet annually to advise on organisational and strategic issues.

Support for flipped journals.

After a record number of high-profile journals flips, in the coming year we will invest in editorial support so that more staff time is dedicated to looking after our journal editorial teams. We will focus on building community amongst our existing and new editors, providing technical support, and giving expert guidance on open access best practice to ensure the highest publishing standards are maintained.

Janeway front-end development.

In the upcoming year we will turn our attention to enhancing the front-end of our publishing platform Janeway, where we will focus on improving website design and user experience for authors, editors, and readers. This will include the introduction of more accessible 'themes' for our journal sites, the redesign of our dashboard and manager interfaces, and investment in the lightweight HTMX framework, which will make our journal sites more dynamic and responsive.

Our shift to HTMX represents a larger focus for the coming year: ensuring that our software infrastructure is 'evergreen.' This means keeping pace with those open-source technologies that are supported by active developer communities worldwide, so that our platform can achieve both flexibility and longevity as part of a vibrant digital publishing ecosystem.

Library outreach programme.

Our model is simple: as more libraries join our international membership network, they enable the sustainable growth of a collectively-funded diamond OA publisher. As more journals flip from subscription models to join the OLH, this allows our library members to cancel commercial packages. In 2023-2024 we drafted a library outreach programme to communicate this model and encourage more libraries to help us build a fairer, more equitable future for academic research. Our focus in the coming year will be putting this programme into action. We will work with library negotiation teams to accelerate the transition to a university-led and community-owned publishing system.

(Appendix A) OLH Outreach.

Below is a list of talks & presentations delivered by the OLH team, as well as training events attended, in the past year:

- **BCS SIGiST Summer 2024 Software Testing Conference**, The Chartered Institute for IT, London, 19 June 2024 (Steph Driver, Joseph Muller & Katherine Parker-Hay, attendance only)
- **Open Research Conversation on Diamond OA**, University of Sheffield, online, 12 June 2024 (Caroline Edwards)
- **Open Institutional Publisher Association (OIPA) Symposium on Institutional OA Publishing**, University of York, 10 June 2024 (Siobhan Haimé)
- **DjangoCon Europe: The Official Conference of the Global Django Developer Community**, Vigo, Spain, 5-9 June 2024 (Mauro Sanchez)
- **The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) University Press Redux**, University of Edinburgh, 15-16 May 2024 (Caroline Edwards & Joe Muller)
- **UK Libraries National Acquisitions Group Conference**, London, 16 May 2024 (Siobhan Haimé)
- **Library Publishing Forum**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, US, 15-16 May 2024 (Andy Byers & Katherine Parker-Hay)
- **European University Association (EUA) Focus Group**, 'Co-designing Diamond OA Recommendations and Guidelines for Institutional Leaders,' online, 13 March 2024 (Paula Clemente Vega)
- **Data Papers Conference**, 'Maximising Potential and Getting Recognition and Rewards for Sharing Humanities Data,' online, 6 March 2024 (Paula Clemente Vega)
- **The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) OA Webinar**, online, 26 October 2023 (Caroline Edwards)
- **OA Library Event**, University of Derby, online, 16 October 2023 (Caroline Edwards)
- **Open Science FAIR**, organised by the National Open Access Desk in Spain (NOAD) and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), Madrid, 25-26 September 2023 (Paula Clemente Vega)
- **The Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) Conference**, online, 19-21 September 2023 (Caroline Edwards)
- **Publish OA Ireland webinar**, organised by the Royal Irish Academy, online, 10 July 2023 (Caroline Edwards)

(Appendix B) Governance and Supporters.

Members of the Governance Board

Library Board

- Agnès Ponsati, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
- Andreas Ferus, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
- Curtis Brundy, Iowa State University
- Demmy Verbeke, KU Leuven Libraries
- Ingrid Mason, AI for Libraries, Archives, and Museums Australasian chapter
- James Kessenides, Yale University Library
- Katarina Wiberg, National Library of Sweden
- Maureen Walsh, The Ohio State University Libraries
- Robert Atkinson, Birkbeck, University of London
- Sharla Lair, Lyris
- Shiela Winchester, University of Texas Libraries
- Susanne van Rijn, Erasmus University Library
- Theo Andrew, University of Edinburgh
- Oya Rieger, Ithaka S+R

Janeway Publishing Technologies Board

- Lisabeth Maria George, Technische Universität Darmstadt
- Dr Izadora Silva Pimenta, Technische Universität Darmstadt
- Chad Nelson, California Digital Library
- Jason Colman, Michigan Publishing
- Prof. Martin Eve, CrossRef / Birkbeck, University of London
- Rebecca Wojturska, Edinburgh University Press / Edinburgh Diamond
- Thomas O'Toole-Mills, University of Essex

The Open Library of Humanities

Birkbeck, University of London

Malet Street

Bloomsbury

London WC1E 7JL

openlibhums.org

Socials:

facebook.com/OpenLibHums

bsky.app/profile/openlibhums.bsky.social

