

OLH Annual Report 2024-25



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“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 every humanities library.”

Demmy Verbeke

Associate Professor of Open Scholarship, KU Leuven, Belgium.



In September 2025, the OLH turned ten years old. We launched in 2015 with just 7 journals and 99 university libraries supporting us. A decade later, the OLH is publishing 34 journals (with 6 more in the process of joining this academic year) and has 345 library supporters worldwide. We've saved libraries an estimated £33.9m in Article Processing Charges and have spearheaded a movement to return academic journals to university-based nonprofit publishing.

Last year, our top priority was sustainability – investing in our team to increase operational capacity and support the rebuilding of our journals ‘flipping’ programme. This year’s priority has been consolidating these expanded activities. Across the team we’ve reviewed workflows, improved our operations, and increased outreach to editors, journals, and libraries.

This Annual Report showcases the work of the brilliant OLH team, which has grown to 12 members of staff in August 2025. Team highlights have included Dr Rose Harris-Birtill’s restructuring

of the Editorial team (which sees 2 new staff joining in August 2025, p. 18); Dr Simon Everett’s consultation on Artificial Intelligence to develop our AI publisher policy for journal editors (p. 11); Andy Byers leading the tech team to improve Janeway’s functionality and design (p. 14); Dr Steph Driver’s a11y project embedding accessibility into website design (p. 13); Dr Paula Clemente Vega’s work engaging our library community to support growing investment in the OLH; Mauro Sanchez’s skilled engineering, finding creative ways to migrate new journals with substantial back catalogues, such as the *International Labour Review*’s archive dating back to 1921 (p. 14); Siobhan Haimé’s review of journal indexing and discoverability; Joe Muller’s integration of the Research Organization Registry (ROR) to enable libraries to check which of their authors publish in OLH journals (p. 14); and, finally, my own advocacy efforts launching the Open Journals Collective – a collaboration between library directors, open research specialists, non-profit diamond publishers, and journal editors (p. 10).

I’m proud to lead such a dynamic and talented team. Supporting professional development to help the team build their careers at the OLH, within Birkbeck, University of London, is a key priority for me. It also benefits the wider diamond open access movement. OLH staff play an active role collaborating with other organisations, including the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC), the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), the UK Serials Group (UKSG), JISC, the digital,

data, and technology agency for UK universities, the Open Institutional Publishing Association (OIPA), and the nonprofit organisation Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), which works with libraries to enable access to knowledge in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and Latin America (p. 15).

Despite extremely challenging financial conditions for universities in our core supporting regions (the UK, US, Europe, and Australasia), income from OLH library membership has increased by 25% in 2024-25 (p. 21). At a time when other publishers and digital infrastructure service providers are facing declining revenue streams, we are growing. The OLH is living proof that a community-governed nonprofit model of scholarly publishing works. Our ongoing work setting up the Open Journals Collective with other nonprofit university-based publishers demonstrates the urgent need for alternatives to commercial models of academic publishing.

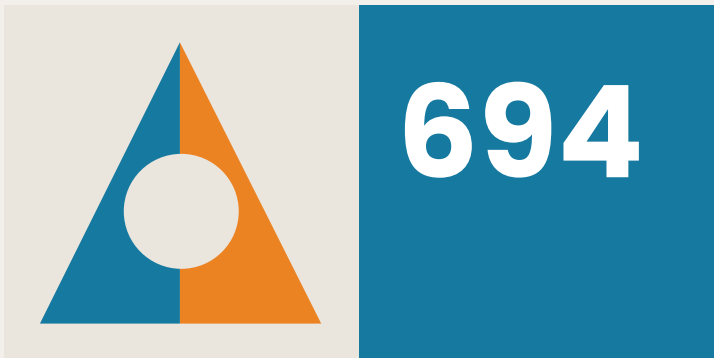
I hope you enjoy reading about our many successes over the past year and look forward to another fantastic year working together to strengthen nonprofit open access publishing.

Professor Caroline Edwards
Executive Director, Open Library of Humanities

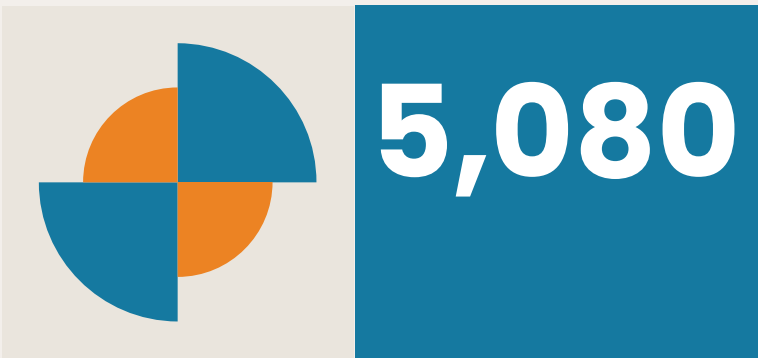
02. Our year in numbers.



02. Our year in numbers.



The **number of articles** OLH has published in 2024-25.



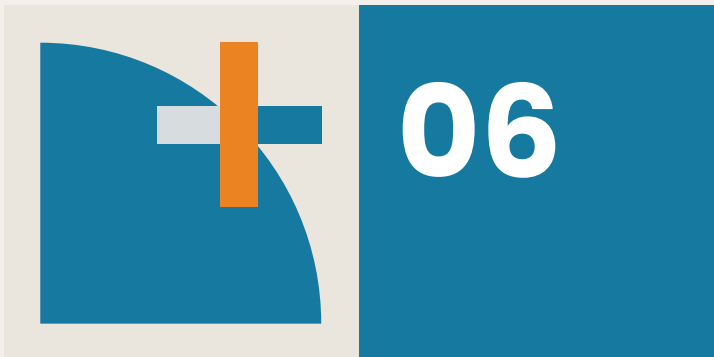
The **number of articles** OLH **has flipped** from commercial models since 2015.



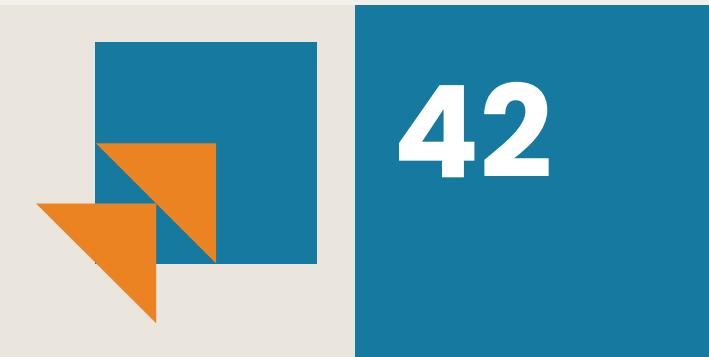
The **number of international open access projects we've funded** since our inaugural OLH Open Access Awards in 2020.



Age (in years) of the oldest OLH journal, *International Labour Review*.



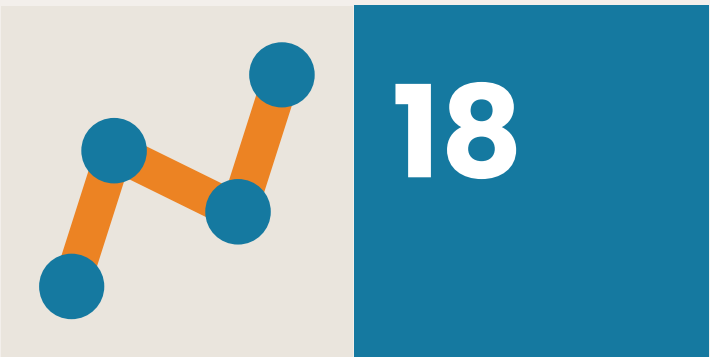
The **number of journals launching** at the OLH in 2025-26.



The **number of university presses and scholarly associations** using the OLH's Janeway platform.



The **number of years** since the OLH began.



The **number of publishing partners** the OLH is working with to launch the Open Journals Collective in 2026.

“The Spanish National Research Council has been collaborating with the Open Library of Humanities for more than 7 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).

3.

Our year in highlights.



03. Our year in highlights.

Journal Flips.

We've made great strides this year encouraging journals to leave their commercial publishers and join the OLH. Following a bumper year in 2023-24, in which ten journals joined the OLH, we've improved our journal migration process. This year, we worked closely with library members to raise enough investment to support six journals joining the OLH.

These include:

- *European Journal of Psychoanalysis* (independently published; OLH funding prevents this journal reverting to a paywall)
- *Energy Humanities* (field-defining new journal)
- *The Hythe Review* (publishing partnership with the87press, to flip their poetry journal to diamond open access)
- Embargoed archaeology journal (leaving a university press in 2025-6)
- Embargoed philosophy journal (who are leaving Wiley in Autumn 2025)
- Embargoed history journal (who are leaving Taylor & Francis in Spring 2026).

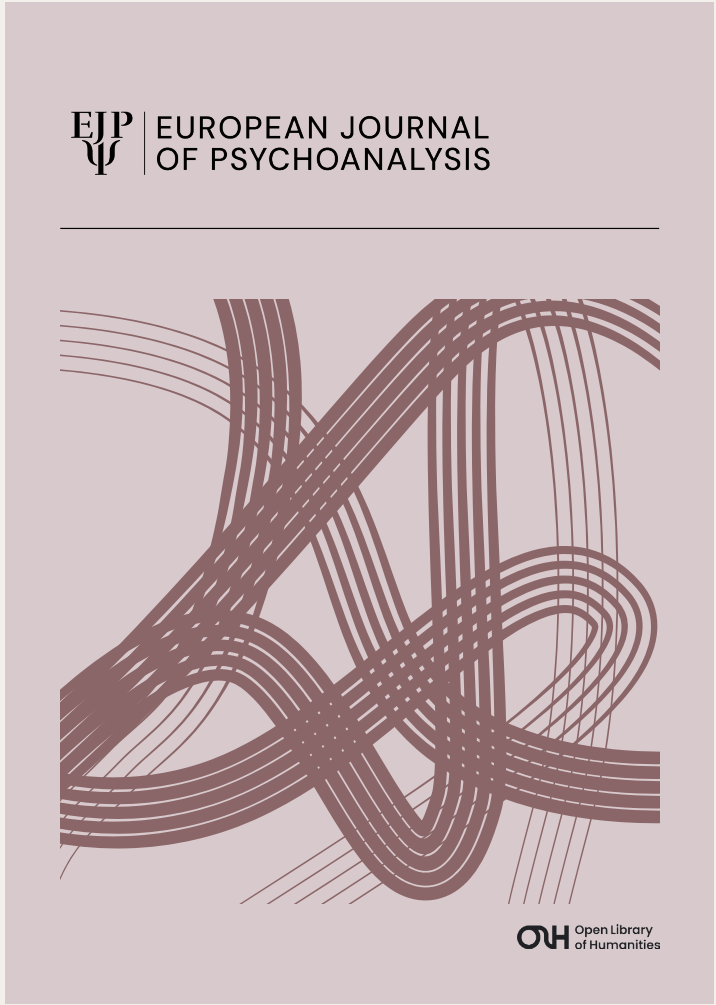
Word about the OLH is spreading across academic communities. We've seen an uptick in the number of applications from disciplines such as philosophy, linguistics, and sociology. We're also receiving applications much earlier than in previous years, with some editors applying up to 24 months ahead of contract termination dates with other publishers. There are more exciting announcements to come this winter and in Spring 2026.

European Journal of Psychoanalysis joins the OLH.

The *European Journal of Psychoanalysis* (*EJP*) was founded in 1995 by the Italian psychoanalyst, philosopher, and author Sergio Benvenuto, who edited the journal until 2020. Publishing in four languages (English, Spanish, Italian, and Ukrainian), the journal has been described by scholars as 'a vital resource to those reading continental philosophy, and Freudian and Lacanian theory.'

Over the years, the *EJP* has published many influential European thinkers, including Jean-François Lyotard, Jacques Derrida, Julia Kristeva, Slavoj Žižek, Jean Laplanche, and Jean-Luc Nancy, as well as American philosophers such as John R. Searle and Richard Rorty. The journal has always maintained a close relationship with clinical practice, drawing on an 'ethics of the clinic,' supporting cutting-edge writing and theorising that is born from, and has a direct impact on, clinical work.

The *EJP* is edited by Dr Fernando Castrillón, personal and supervising psychoanalyst, Professor Emeritus in the Community Mental Health Program at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), faculty of the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California (PINC) and the founder and director of the Foundation of California Psychoanalysis (FCP), and Dr Thomas Marchevsky, a licensed psychoanalyst and Clinic Director of The Clinic Without Walls at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS).



“The opportunity to collaborate with the OLH not only aligns with our longstanding vision for the journal, but also a commitment to psychoanalysis—it signifies a new and perhaps now necessary mode of transmission.”

Dr Thomas Marchevsky,
Clinic Director, The Clinic Without Walls,
California Institute of Integral Studies

**Field-defining new journal,
Energy Humanities.**

In April 2025, we accepted an application from *Energy Humanities*, a field-defining journal in the interdisciplinary field of energy studies. Launched in 2020 by the Transitions in Energy, Culture, and Society (TECS) project in Canada and the Petrocultures Research Group, *Energy Humanities* has rapidly become an important intellectual hub for new ideas and insights about climate, energy, and culture.

As the editors note, *Energy Humanities* explores the relationship between culture and energy. ‘We will not achieve a just energy transition without a simultaneous social transition. The challenge before us is immense because our cultural assumptions and sensibilities are deeply shaped by the fossil fuels we depend on in our daily lives.’

With funding from the OLH, *Energy Humanities* can support this lively community long term whilst also publishing peer-reviewed journal articles without paywalls or author payments. *Energy Humanities* is edited by Prof. Caleb Wellum (University of Toronto Mississauga), Prof. Imre

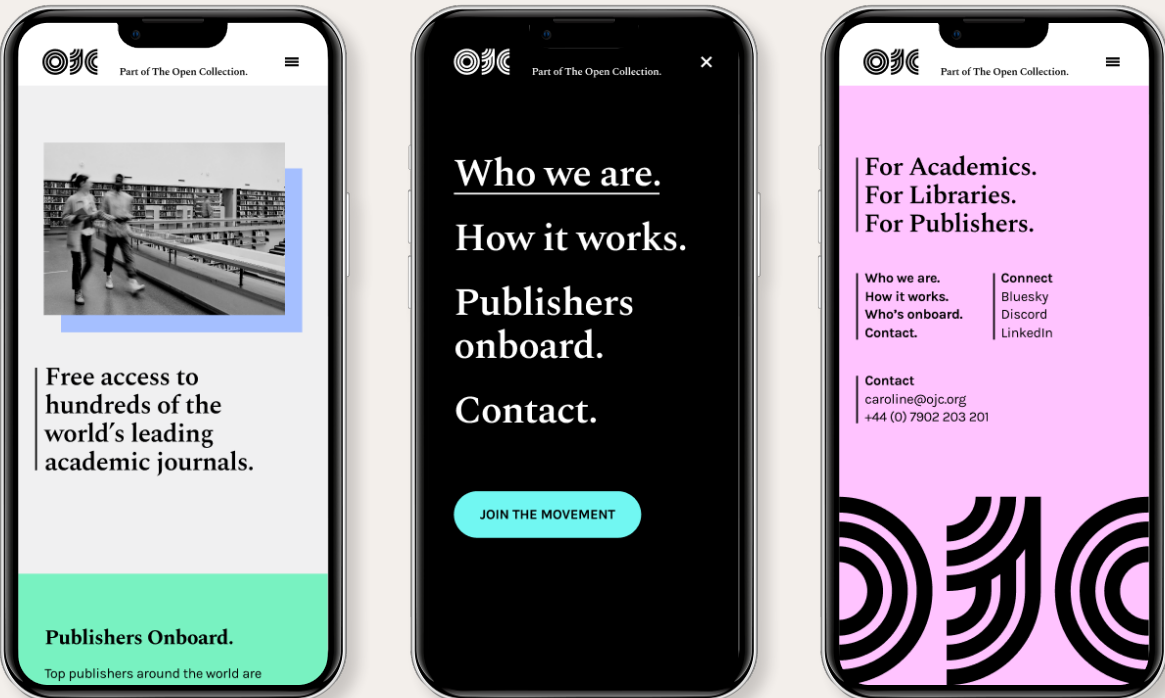
Szeman (University of Toronto Scarborough), Prof. Graeme Macdonald (University of Warwick), and Prof. Mark Simpson (University of Alberta).

Divesting from commercial ‘big deals’.

2024-25 has been a difficult year for university budgets, with ongoing redundancies and budget cuts across the UK, Europe, and, more recently, in the US. Despite these financial pressures, the OLH has demonstrated strong membership growth over the past 12 months. We’re extremely grateful to our library members, many of whom have increased their annual investment in our publishing. By placing their trust in the OLH, this allows university libraries to accelerate the transition of academic journals away from commercial models to nonprofit publishing models.

Across the university sector, difficult decisions are being made about how library budgets can be spent most effectively and where savings can be found. This has led to increased collaboration between institutions and a shift away from supporting commercial profit-making models and towards community-governed and university-based publishing. Working closely with library directors and open research specialists, the OLH has taken a leadership role this year in advocating for a divestment from commercial ‘big deals’ of journals packages. This work has led to the formation of the new nonprofit Open Journals Collective, of which the OLH is a leading member working with 18 publishing partners worldwide.

The Open Journals Collective



One of the OLH’s targets for 2024-25 was to increase library outreach. Our Executive Director, Prof. Caroline Edwards, worked closely with library colleagues this year to prepare a strategy for libraries to divest from commercial journals packages and divert budgets towards community-owned, nonprofit diamond open access publishing.

This work led to the formation of the Open Journals Collective, of which Caroline is a director (with Dr Rupert Gatti from Trinity College, Cambridge / Open Book Publishers and Joanna Ball from the Directory of Open Access Journals).

The Open Journals Collective brings publishers like the OLH together with academic editors, library directors and open research specialists. Together we are co-designing a transformational shift in the way that academic journals are published and financially supported. In January 2026, the OJC will launch with a collection of c. 300 diamond open access journals in the humanities, social sciences, and STEM disciplines.

For more information [visit the OJC website.](#)



Death of a Zombie Journal.

Our leading philosophy journal *Political Philosophy* marked the anniversary of its first year in March 2025, having joined the OLH in January 2024 and began publishing in March in that year.

Political Philosophy built on decades of hard work at the Wiley flagship title, *Journal of Political Philosophy*. The philosophy community were outraged when the journal’s publisher Wiley sacked the title’s Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Bob Goodin, leading to a mass editorial resignation and successful boycott of the journal since Summer 2023. In July 2025 Wiley finally announced that it would be closing down the journal, effective 1 January 2026.

This announcement reveals the commitment shown by philosophy academics to hold a publisher boycott that has lasted for 2 years. When Wiley sacked Prof. Goodin, the *Journal of Political Philosophy* quickly became a ‘zombie journal,’ that is, ‘an academic journal published by a commercial publisher that has lost the respect and support of its scholarly community.’ As we have defined the term in our [OLH Glossary](#), ‘Zombie journals are formed when editorial boards resign en masse from running an academic journal in response to the anti-intellectual and commercial practices of the publisher. This is often followed by the launch of a new open-access journal to which the academic community migrates, leaving behind the undead zombie title, a husk of its former self, and emblem of the acquisitive motives of unscrupulous commercial scholarly publishers.’

As *Leiter Reports: A Philosophy Blog* noted in a report published in March 2025, *Political Philosophy* received 374 submissions in its first year. 7% of submissions were accepted and 99% of decisions were made within three months (92% within two months). The blog, which has an international following among the academic philosophy community, calls these review times ‘exemplary.’

Engaging our editorial community.

In November 2024, the OLH team hosted an Editors’ Workshop on the theme of ‘Community and Inclusion in Scholarly Publishing.’ This event brought together editors from many of our OLH journals to discuss important and evolving topics in open access scholarly publishing, ranging from the need for greater accessibility for users of our journals, the importance of inclusion and community to build strong open access publishing networks, and the growing use of AI tools and generative AI in publishing workflows. We were thrilled to welcome keynote speaker, Sharla Lair (Senior Strategist of Open Access and Scholarly Communication for Lyrasis), who presented an in-depth look at the importance of building global open access scholarly networks for the longevity of journals and their research.

OLH Open Access Award winners 2020–25.



OLH Open Access Award 2025: winners announced.

Launched in 2020 by OLH’s Editorial Director, Dr Rose Harris-Birtill, the OLH Open Access Awards are now in their fourth year. To date, we’ve funded a total of eleven open access projects worldwide. Past awardees include University College Cork, Lancaster University Library, the International Sustainable Development Research Society, the National Library of Kosovo, and Open Access India.

This year’s award recipients are:

- ‘Free to Publish, Free to Read: Diamond Open Access Workshops in Malaysia, Pakistan, and Singapore,’ led by Dr Haroon Bakari (University of Southampton Malaysia). This project aims to raise awareness of diamond open access through a series of free workshops in Malaysia, Pakistan, and Singapore, helping to address systemic inequalities in access to knowledge.
- ‘Open Philosophy,’ led by Dr Adrian Kind (Universitätsmedizin Berlin). This project promotes awareness of diamond open access to philosophy scholars, highlighting top-ranking OA philosophy journals.
- ‘Data as a Story: A Humanities Dataset Exhibition,’ led by Amie Longthorne (Liverpool John Moores University). This project will run an exhibition at the university to raise awareness of humanities research data, and the importance of making it openly available.

Consultation on AI in Publishing.

The use of generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) in scholarly publishing is evolving rapidly, coinciding with the development of readily available, more thoroughly trained AI models and the increasingly seamless integration of generative AI tools into software applications. To help equip our journal teams to navigate this rapidly-changing technological landscape, the OLH editorial team is in the process of developing fair and transparent guidance on the use of AI in journal publishing.

Conducted by our policy lead Dr Simon Everett, this process is being informed by direct feedback from the OLH editorial community. Our first dedicated forum on AI in publishing took place in November 2024 at the OLH Editors’ Workshop where we gathered editors’ views on the challenges and benefits of AI in publishing. In 2025, we’ve built on these findings to undertake a consultation process with editorial teams. We will be drafting an OLH AI publisher policy in Autumn 2025 to assist our editors at a time of rapid technological change, following guidelines provided by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

04. Janeway highlights.



04. Janeway highlights.



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 has focussed on developing the community governance of our Janeway platform and refining our processes to allow us to serve a growing number of users worldwide.

In 2024-25 we've launched new hosted services for Aberdeen University Press, Aperiopress, and CDRXIV, with four more currently in progress. We've also started working with engineers at the Public Library of Science (PLOS) who are developing Janeway's code base to allow them to use the platform for parts of their article submission workflow.

The OLH tech team has completed seven journal migrations for journals migrating to the OLH, involving complex technical imports of back content and custom styling projects. We've also released 10 new versions of Janeway, which is significantly above the sector average, and delivered numerous plugin updates to extend and enhance Janeway functionality.

Accessibility implementation.

Last year, our Publishing Technologies Developer, Dr Steph Driver, undertook an accessibility audit of the OLH's journals, publishing platform, and user documentation. We tested these materials against upcoming Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to check our compliance ahead of anticipated legal requirements – the European Accessibility Act came into effect on 28 June 2025, and the US's Department of Justice finalised new legislation updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which will come into effect in April 2026.

In 2024-25 Steph prioritised development work on all areas of non-compliance identified in the accessibility audit. Working with the wider tech and editorial teams, this development work on the a11y project has now been completed. Steph's accessibility expertise has led to wider organisational changes at the OLH. In addition to ensuring compliance with accessibility legislation for digital content, we wanted to see how we could integrate accessibility needs into everything we do. After all, the open access movement should be fully aligned with the accessibility movement.

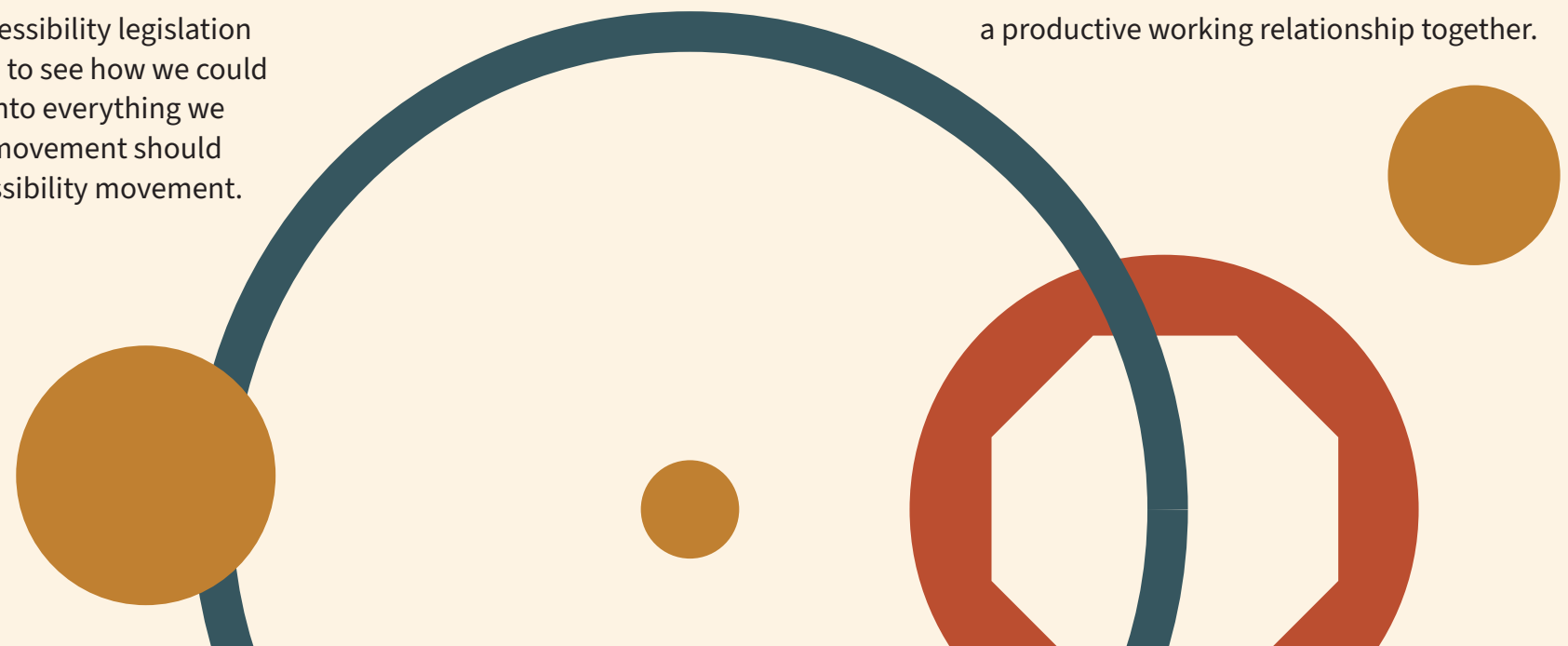
This integration has led to a detailed review of processes such as the standardisation of developer documentation, testing and quality control, external communications, as well as internal processes and ways of working. We have investigated useful emerging technologies and implemented software development workflow documents, set aside time to reflect on what has worked (and what hasn't), and built a cohesive agile structure for the OLH tech team.

Emily Gresham Beamer, our dedicated CHASE intern, has been working closely with Steph as our Accessibility Specialist Developer to conduct detailed accessibility testing ahead of the next Janeway release, helping to ensure that our publishing software is as accessible as possible.

Publishing Technology Board.

The new community governance structure that will oversee the OLH tech team's work on the Janeway platform is now in place. The OLH Publishing Technology Board meets bi-annually and members are formalising the Board's responsibilities for decision-making and the overall strategic direction of the platform. Board members have agreed that the Board's role is to ensure accountability as well as advocate on behalf of the growing Janeway community. OLH Director of Publishing Technology, Andy Byers, and his team will report regularly to the Board.

The elected Board members are Jason Colman (MPub, University of Michigan Press), Chad Nelson (California Digital Library), Rebecca Wojturska (Edinburgh Diamond, University of Edinburgh), and Thomas O'Toole-Mills (Library Services, University of Essex). We'd like to thank all Board members for their service and look forward to a productive working relationship together.



Research collaborations to improve user experience.

In September 2024, the OLH tech team began a collaboration with the California Digital Library (CDL) to conduct user research aimed at improving the dashboard in Janeway. Working closely with CDL's User Experience Design Service, we invested significant time in user experience (UX) research, with this project laying the foundation for future UX redesigns of the platform. Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to build on these successes and continue driving innovation for the OLH and Janeway.

Showing reach through ROR data.

Many publishers assess their reach by looking at who they publish, and where those authors work. However, this is easier said than done. Organisations can be described in different ways, with acronyms, schools and departments. Organisations sometimes have names in multiple languages. Two or more organisations might have the same name or very similar names, like York University, the University of York, and York St. John University, to take one example. The Research Organisation Registry (ROR) solves these problems by attaching a persistent identifier to each organisation, like DOIs for articles or ORCIDs for people.

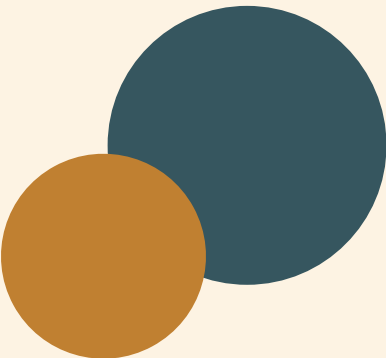
In 2024-25, OLH Senior Publishing Technologies Developer Joe Muller led a project to integrate ROR into the Janeway publishing platform, as well as completely rewriting the interface where author information is recorded. Authors can now select their affiliations from a continually updated list of 114,000 institutions or enter a custom institution. When articles are published, Janeway will distribute any ROR IDs present in the article metadata, so that it is easy to create reports showing which institutions are represented by a given publishing programme.

Joe's development work integrating ROR data into Janeway will support all the publishers that use the platform. With these data, publishers can evidence the important role their journals play to university libraries. This also makes it possible for libraries that are considering joining the OLH's library membership scheme to quickly find out how many of their own academic faculty are publishing articles in OLH journals.

The new Hydra plugin.

One of the most significant engineering projects this year has been the successful creation and integration of the new Hydra plugin. Designed by our Senior Publishing Technologies Developer Mauro Sanchez, this tool enables a single submission system to publish seamlessly to one or multiple journals, at any stage within the editorial workflow. This functionality not only streamlines the author experience but also enhances the overall efficiency and reach of the Janeway ecosystem. The successful implementation of Hydra marks a key milestone in our commitment to building versatile and powerful open-source solutions that meet the evolving needs of scholarly publishing. Developing Hydra has enabled the OLH platform to support the publication needs of the *International Labour Review*, which publishes translated versions of submitted articles within English-, French-, and Spanish-language journals.

See the [Hydra codebase on Github](#).



Design process.

This year, Joe Muller has continued work maturing our design process as a complement to Janeway's agile development. This involves collecting user research through our collaboration with the California Digital Library's User Experience Design Service. This helps us consider user needs more methodically, give more careful attention to key details of user interfaces, and improve accessibility. Joe's work has been implemented across the Janeway team, which now regularly workshops new Janeway user interfaces as part of our design process. We've also laid the groundwork to build a new reader interface and standardise user interface (UI) elements in the back office to be more consistent, accessible, and user-friendly.

New preprint server launched on Janeway.

In May 2025, the OLH tech team announced the launch of CDRXIV, a new preprint server from CarbonPlan, a US-based nonprofit that analyses climate solutions based on the best available science and data.

CDRXIV is powered behind the scenes by Janeway, with the OLH providing technical infrastructure and development support. The new preprint server demonstrates Janeway's flexibility as an open-source publishing platform and highlights the OLH's role as a technical partner for organisations delivering new technical solutions in scholarly communication.

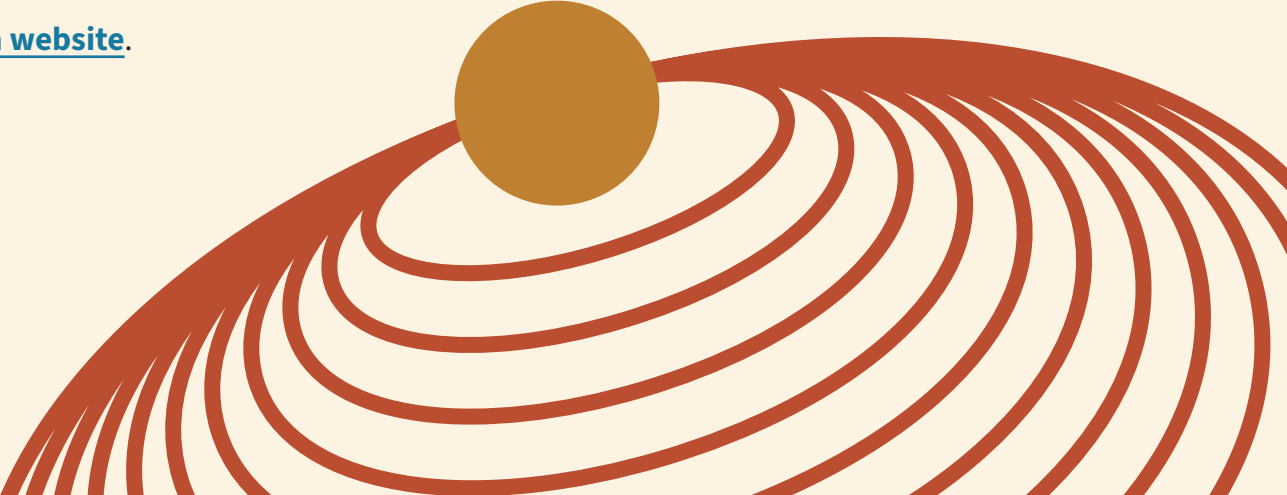
Visit the [CDRXIV platform website](#).

Consolidating new workflows.

Last year, 2 new members of staff joined our small team of software engineers – Dr Steph Driver (Publishing Technologies Developer) and Siobhan Haimé (Publishing Technologies Librarian). This gave us increased operational capacity to support our growing number of OLH journals, as well as other university presses using the Janeway platform's hosted publishing services.

We've implemented the necessary changes identified in last year's review of our tech team's software development cycles. Janeway software development is now organised into structured 'sprints,' with clear, publicly accessible documentation. Each sprint is followed by a sprint retrospective to identify strengths and weaknesses, as well as foster team collaboration. We have built testing and quality control into our software development practices, including accessibility checks to comply with WCAG legal requirements.

Finally, we have identified ongoing professional development needs for the tech team and are working with senior management at our parent organisation Birkbeck, University of London to implement a training plan that can help meet these needs.



Collaborations with other organisations.

OLH staff continued to work with a growing number of publishing partners and open access initiatives in 2024-25.

Prof. Caroline Edwards founded the Open Journals Collective (OJC), which incorporated in May 2025 as a UK-based nonprofit Community Interest Company (CIC). Directed by Caroline, along with Dr Rupert Gatti (Trinity College, Cambridge / Open Book Publishers) and Joanna Ball (Directory of Open Access Journals), OJC is leading transformational change in the way that academic journals are funded and disseminated – shifting from a commercial model to a university-based nonprofit model. Caroline continued her work on the Executive Committee of the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA) and also joined OASPA's Finance Committee, which has a legal responsibility to oversee the financial activities of the organisation.

In January 2025, Caroline began Co-Chairing the Advocacy Working Group of University-Based Publishing Futures (UBPF), a coalition of university presses, library publishers, and other academy-affiliated programs. UBPF is supported by the Association of University Presses and the Library Publishing Coalition to contribute to the infrastructure of scholarly publishing.

Andy Byers continued his work on the Editorial Board of the OA Journal Toolkit Board, which provides guidance for new and established open access journals to navigate the rapidly changing scholarly publishing landscape. In 2025, Andy also joined the Technical Advisory Board at Syracuse University Press.

Joe Muller complemented his role as OLH Senior Publishing Technologies Developer, working as an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck, University of London. Joe taught a module on Web Development & User Experience to students on the MA Digital Media Design.

Building on her accessibility work at the OLH, in 2025 Dr Steph Driver became Co-Convenor of the Staff Disability Network at Birkbeck, University of London. Steph worked with colleagues in the wider University of London federation to establish this network, acting as a consultant for disability funding at Birkbeck. Steph also volunteers at her local library in Essex, helping library users learn how to use accessible technology.

Dr Rose Harris-Birtill continued her roles in service to the wider academic community as an invited board member on Crossref's Membership and Fees Committee, and as the UK National Expert for the European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS). Rose was also promoted to Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of St Andrews in recognition of her outstanding contributions to higher education, including guest lectures on her research specialisms and careers workshops on open access publishing.

Dr Paula Clemente Vega continued working on the OASPA Fully Open Access Working Group and joined the Communications Group for the UK's Open Institutional Publishing Association (OIPA) in June 2025. Paula also continued in her expert role contributing 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 2024-25, Siobhan Haimé continued in her role on the Editorial Board for *UKSG Insights* the journal of the UK Serials Group, which connects the UK's knowledge community by bringing publishers and librarians together. Siobhan co-chaired UKSG's Global Equity Network, bringing expertise in Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) processes within the library sector and contributing to UKSG's EDI working group. She also joined the Advisory Board for JISC's Open Policy Finder, the UK's trusted source on open access archiving and compliance information.

In February 2025, Siobhan wrote an opinion piece for the UKSG's newsletter responding to the news that the analytics company Clarivate will phase-out perpetual access purchases for print, eBooks and digital collections by the end of 2025. Titled 'A librarian's summary of, and response to, the Clarivate announcement,' Siobhan's piece was widely circulated throughout UK library networks and described the move by Clarivate as representing 'a troubling shift in the power dynamics between academic libraries and commercial providers, especially those who hold (near) monopolies.'

Read Siobhan's [UKSG article here](#).

"We started migrating our journals to Janeway in 2020 and have never looked back! It's been wonderful working with the growing Janeway team and benefitting from the continual improvements to the platform. Janeway has proven itself a trusted and integral component in the open source publishing infrastructure environment."

Ellen Dubinsky,
Scholarly Communications
Librarian, University of Arizona
Libraries

“At the California Digital Library, we provide access to world-class, open access scholarship for a global audience via our eScholarship Publishing program. We have found Janeway’s workflow management system, run by the Open Library of Humanities’ in-house tech team, to be ideal for both our journals program and our preprint repository hosting service. We have been deeply impressed by the responsiveness and collaborative nature of the OLH tech team from the beginning—a shining example of open source community engagement!”

Günter Waibel

Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, California Digital Library.

05. Our team.



Staff in August 2025.

This year, several OLH colleagues have successfully applied for promotion – Dr Simon Everett becomes Managing Editor, Dr Paula Clemente Vega becomes Community Outreach Manager, and Dr Caroline Edwards becomes Professor of Contemporary Literature & Culture. Caroline maintains her role as OLH Executive Director and will continue her international advocacy for transformative change in scholarly publishing.

We’ve been joined by two new colleagues, Dr Madeleine Sinclair and Naomi Morris, both of whom join the team as Editorial Officers. This expands our Editorial team to 4 members of staff, enabling us to undertake more outreach among our editorial and academic communities in 2025-26. We’ve also said goodbye to Dr Katherine Parker-Hay, our User Experience Researcher and Content Strategist, who leaves the OLH to relocate to the United States and start graduate research.



Andy Byers
Director of Publishing Technology



Dr Paula Clemente Vega
Community Outreach Manager



Dr Steph Driver
Publishing Technologies Developer



Professor Caroline Edwards
Executive Director



Dr Simon Everett
Managing Editor



Emily Gresham Beamer
CHASE Doctoral Training Partnership Intern



Siobhan Haimé
Publishing Technologies Librarian



Dr Rose Harris-Birtill
Editorial Director



Naomi Morris
Editorial Officer



Joseph Muller
Senior Publishing Technologies Developer



Mauro Sanchez
Senior Publishing Technologies Developer



Dr Madeleine Sinclair
Editorial Officer

New staff members.



Naomi Morris

‘Before starting my Creative-Critical PhD, I worked for a children’s literature agency that supported underrepresented illustrators in children’s literature. This

gave me hands-on experience juggling multiple projects and with working with partners like the Southbank Centre and the Arts Council.

The ethos of the OLH aligns with my own values. I care deeply about making academic, peer-reviewed work available to everyone. When I was applying for my PhD, I struggled to access research articles because so much academic work is behind paywalls. Unless you’re affiliated with an institution, it’s often inaccessible, which is incredibly exclusionary.

The OLH sets a powerful example. It shows that it’s possible to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed journals on an open-access platform without relying on large corporate publishers. I’m excited to see the OLH continue to grow steadily and be a part of this important movement.’

“Until my experience at OLH, I didn’t believe I could feel so comfortable in a workplace. But what they have fostered at OLH, as well as a world-class editorial and tech team with a shared and important goal of fostering open access publishing, is a wonderful work environment.”

**Naomi Morris,
Editorial Officer**



Dr Maddie Sinclair

‘I became interested in open access publishing during my PhD in comparative literature at the University of Warwick. I had long admired the work of the Open Library of

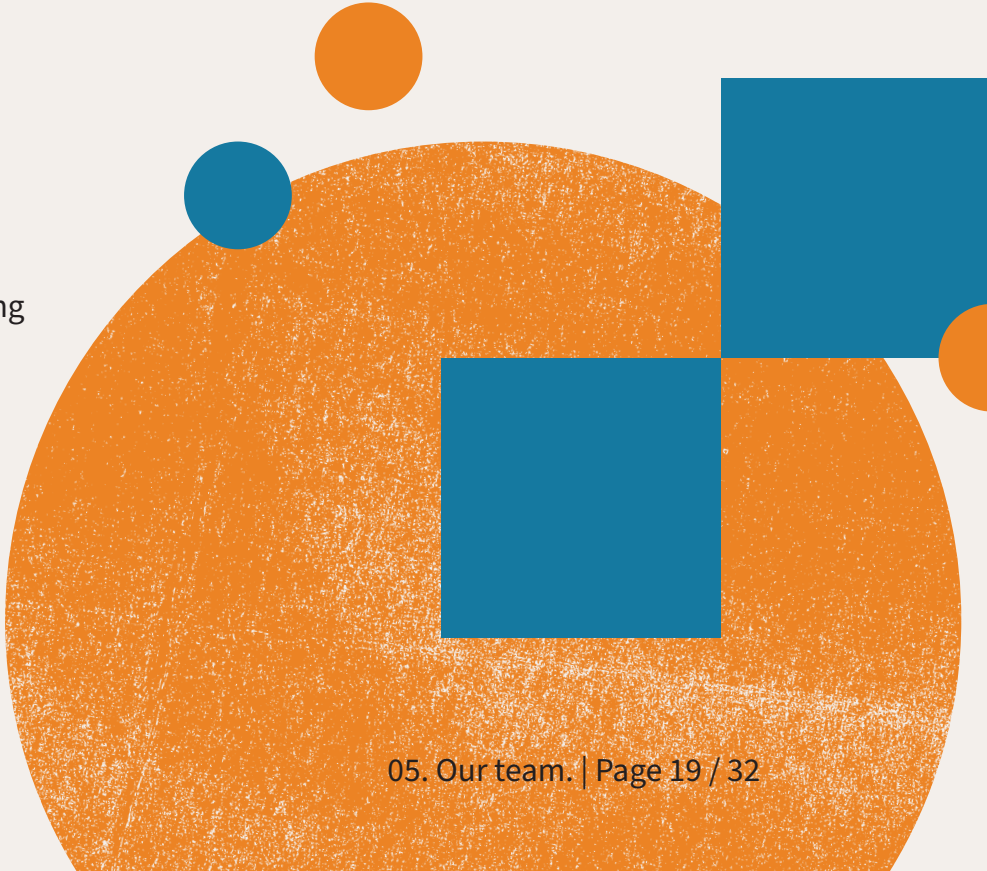
Humanities, and I felt I had both the passion and the principles aligned with the organisation’s mission. I strongly believe in the importance of research being publicly available to everyone, not just academics.

As a researcher, I became aware of the structural inequalities in publishing systems, and I didn’t want to perpetuate them. Before my PhD, I spent a few years working in the participatory arts sector coordinating community outreach programmes. I often thought about who has access to cultural experiences like the arts, and the structural factors that contribute to these disparities.

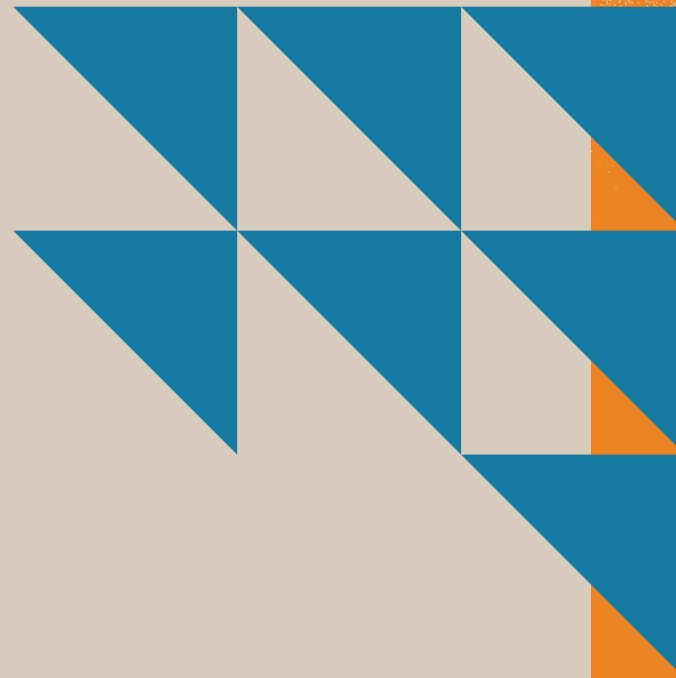
What I bring to the OLH is a genuine commitment to the politics of open access and to building communities grounded in that ethos. This involves nurturing relationships with journals and supporting new journals as they come on board. I’m looking forward to working with this expanded community of open access advocates as the OLH grows.’

“As a researcher, I became aware of the structural inequalities in publishing systems, and I didn’t want to perpetuate them.”

**Dr Maddie Sinclair,
Editorial Officer**



06. Financial overview.



06. 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 as part of our operating reserve policy. This contingency is designed to support rising staff costs, investing in software development, and contributing to organisational support at Birkbeck, where the OLH team is based.

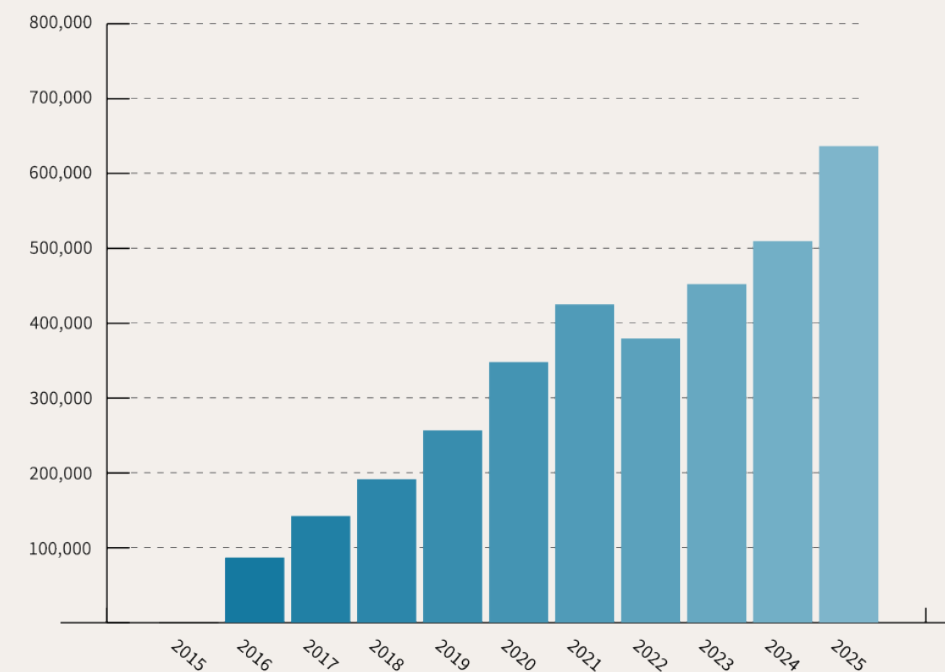
Financial breakdown, 2024–25.

Income	Amount (£)
Library Memberships	636,702
Janeway Hosted Services	153,543
Total Income	790,245
Expenditure	Amount (£)
Staff costs	
Staff Costs	621,172
Total	621,172
Publishing Costs	
Typesetting	87,720
Archiving, DOIs & Preservation	2,117
Website Hosting & Domain Registration	11,896
Total	101,733
Digital Office Costs	
Computer Hardware & Software, Equipment	3,450
Digital Security & IT infrastructure	545
Professional Memberships	786
Office Support*	9,405
Total	14,186
Marketing & Travel Costs	
Graphic Design	9,385
Conference Travel & Accommodation	2,387
Printed Publicity Materials	247
OLH Award	1,000
Marketing Software & Tools	401
Total	13,420
Total Non-staff Costs	129,339
Total Expenditure	750,511
OLH Operating Reserve†	39,734

*Office support includes international payroll costs, global mobility consultancy costs, and exchange rate gains and losses.

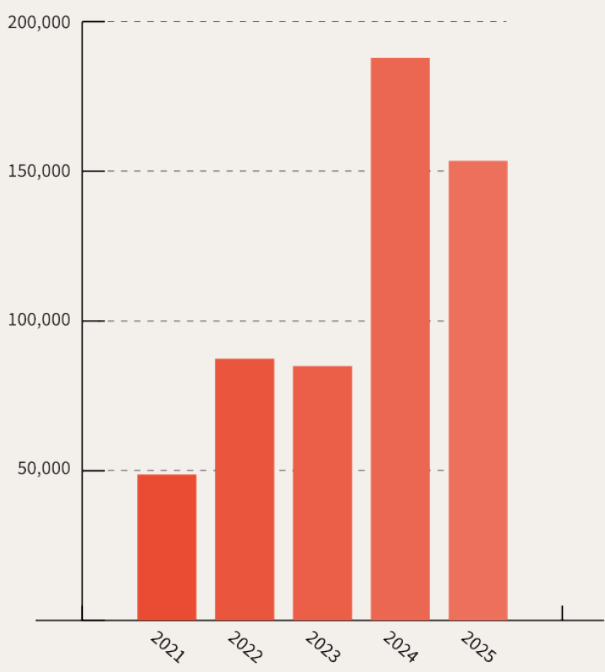
†The OLH runs an operating reserve policy to ensure the stability of the organisation. For more information, please visit our [Governance and Finances](#) page.

OLH library income (£).

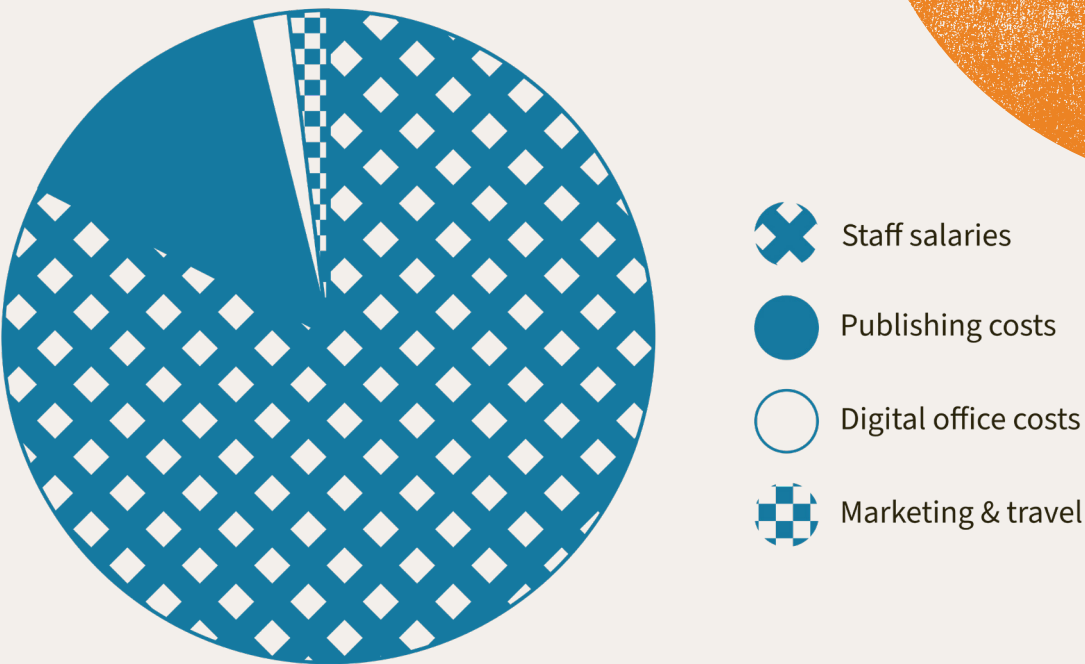


Note: In 2024-25, the OLH aligned its accounting year with its parent organisation, Birkbeck, University of London.

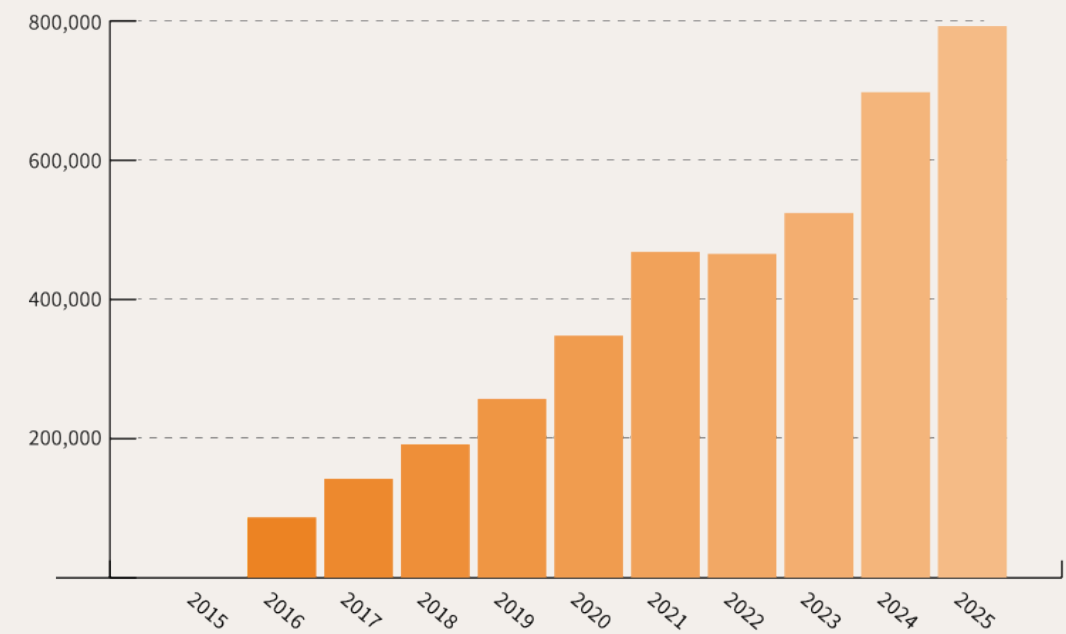
Janeway income (£).



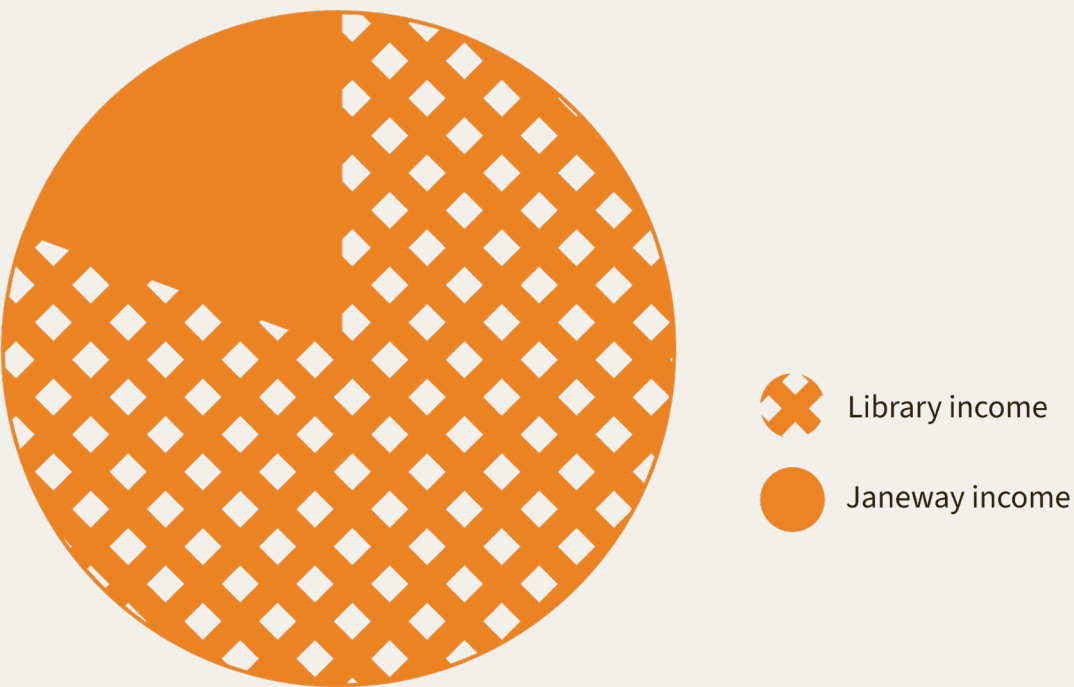
OLH expenses 2024-25.



OLH total income (£).



OLH income streams.



07. Progress on key priorities.



07. Progress on key priorities.

This year we've focused on consolidation, following our efforts to improve the OLH's organisational sustainability in 2023-24. We've begun publishing new journals that flipped last year, accepted applications from flagship titles leaving commercial publishers, and started important outreach work across our editorial teams and their academic communities.

Priority	Strategy	Status
Increase library support	Encourage libraries to increase support via higher-tier memberships.	Ongoing; we built and launched a Recommend Us tool allowing users from across our journals to quickly and easily recommend supporting the OLH to their libraries.
Library outreach and advocacy	Raise awareness of OLH and recent developments through talks and networks.	Completed. OLH staff spoke at 20 conferences and library-related events this year (see p. 26).
Stakeholder meetings	Gather feedback from library partners about what we could do better and how we can support the OA movement.	Completed. Library stakeholder meetings held from Autumn 2024 to Spring 2025, resulting in the OLH leading in the formation of the Open Journals Collective.
Collaborate with mission-aligned organisations	Build alliances in the diamond OA movement.	Completed. The OLH team has worked closely with the Open Institutional Publishing Association (OIPA), the University-Based Publishing Futures (UBPF) coalition, the Open Book Collective (OBC), the COPIM community, and the Open Journals Collective (OJC).
Editorial outreach	Schedule regular meetings with OLH journal editors to check in.	Work has begun, still ongoing; the appointment of 2 new Editorial Officers in August 2025 will build on this work and ensure regular contact with editors.
Develop multilingualism in Janeway	Undertake development work so users can navigate Janeway in multiple languages.	Work almost completed; OLH tech team worked closely with the <i>International Labour Review</i> to prepare author, editor, and peer reviewer workflows in French and Spanish.
Establish Publishing Technologies Board	Period of consultation with working group to establish rules and schedule of the official Publishing Technologies Board.	Election procedures and by-laws finalised. Regular meetings of the working group established. First official meeting held.
Professionalise Janeway user documentation	Create Janeway style guide, and rewrite user documentation from a user-centered perspective for website launch.	Work has begun; completion anticipated in Autumn 2025.
Develop our AI publisher policy	Consult with OLH journal editors and industry best practice standards to draft a robust AI policy that aligns with OLH values.	Consultation has been held; policy drafted and ready for publication in Autumn 2025.
Develop organisational structures for larger teams	Respond to the growing size of the OLH team by reassessing workflows, scheduling regular meetings and investing in manager level training.	Training has begun across the OLH team, with additional leadership support identified for the 3 OLH Directors in 2025-26. Workloads and workflows reviewed, with more work to do next year.
Review all communications and outward facing forms for accessibility	Newsletter and editorial forms.	Accessibility work has been completed on public-facing documentation, the OLH newsletter, and the OLH Annual Report. More work needed in 2025-26 on internal documentation.

08. Outreach.



08. Outreach.

Here is a list of talks and presentations delivered by the OLH team in the past year.

Norwegian DCH Planning Event, Research Council of Norway (RCN), online, 28 August 2024 (Caroline Edwards)

OASPA Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 16-19 September (Caroline Edwards)

Diamond Capacity Hub Launch Event, OPERAS France, online, 26 September 2024 (Caroline Edwards)

Digital Library Federation Forum, online, 22-23 October 2024 (Caroline Edwards)

Open Access Network Event, German Ministry of Education & Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung), online, 5 December 2024 (Caroline Edwards)

Munin Conference, Tromsø, Norway, 26–28 November 2024 (Katherine Parker-Hay)

Launch of the European Diamond Capacity Hub, Museo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Madrid, Spain, 15 January 2025 (Paula Clemente Vega)

Researcher to Reader Conference, London, UK, 25-26 February 2025 (Rose Harris-Birtill)

Oxford Festival of Open Scholarship, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, UK, 11 March 2025 (Caroline Edwards)

State of the Browser 2025, London Web Standards, The Barbican Centre, London, 29 March 2025 (Joe Muller)

UKSG Annual Conference, Brighton, UK, 31 March - 2 April 2025 (Caroline Edwards & Siobhan Haimé)

Radical OA conference, Cambridge, online, 10-11 April 2025 (Paula Clemente Vega & Siobhan Haimé)

UK National Acquisitions Group Forum, Leeds, UK, 15 May 2025 (Siobhan Haimé)

Critical Approaches to Libraries Conference UK, online, 13-15 May 2025 (Siobhan Haimé)

Open Access Experts panel, the Courtauld Institute / Somerset House, London, UK, 1 June 2025 (Paula Clemente Vega)

UCL Open Science Festival, UCL London, UK, 3 June 2025 (Caroline Edwards)

DIAMAS Project Final Conference, Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium, 3 June 2025 (Paula Clemente Vega)

N8 Libraries Event, University of York, UK, 12 June 2025 (Caroline Edwards & Siobhan Haimé)

Birkbeck AI Summit, Birkbeck, University of London, UK, 2-3 July 2025 (Steph Driver)

‘Connecting and Empowering Research: Open Access, Open Data, and Research Metrics’ Conference, AISSMS College of Engineering, Pune, India, online, 2-4 July 2025 (Paula Clemente Vega)

Editors & Publishers Network Event, University of Sheffield, UK, 9 July 2025 (Caroline Edwards)

09.
Thank you.



09. 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 to build a not-for-profit publishing future.

Supporters by country.

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Université catholique de Louvain
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Germany

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Bielefeld University Library
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Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS), Library
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TU Braunschweig / Universitätsbibliothek
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Universität Potsdam
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Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt
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University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg of Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main
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University of Bremen
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Greece

Academy of Athens
Aegean University

Agricultural University of Athens
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Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Athena - Research and Innovation Center in Information Communication and Knowledge Technologies
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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
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Hellenic PASTEUR Institute
Institute of Educational Policy

International Hellenic University
Ionian University
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National Centre of Scientific Research
National Hellenic Research Foundation & National Documentation Centre
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Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics

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University College Cork
University College Dublin
University of Galway
University of Limerick

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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

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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
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Singapore

National University of Singapore

South Africa

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Spain

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National Library of Sweden
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Switzerland

ETH Zurich
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
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University of Basel
University of Geneva
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Zentral- und Hochschulbibliothek Luzern
Zürcher Hochschule der Künste

United Kingdom

Bath Spa University
Birkbeck, University of London
Cardiff University
Durham University
Edge Hill University
Goldsmiths, University of London
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King’s College London
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Florida Southern College
Florida State University Libraries
Franklin & Marshall College Library

George Mason University
Gettysburg College
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Harvard Library
Indiana University
Iowa State University Library
James Madison University Libraries
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Macalester College
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Miami University Libraries
Michigan State University
Montana State University
Mount St. Mary’s University
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Oberlin College
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Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
West Virginia University
Whittier College
Yale University



10. Looking ahead.



10. Looking ahead.

2024-25 has been another busy year and we've made great strides to implement more sustainable working practices within the OLH team. Improvements to workloads, team organisation, and improving cross-team workflows has enabled the OLH team to better support our growing community of editors, authors, libraries, and publishers.

Next year we will build on this progress, with plans for greater collaboration with our international partners to increase the visibility and professionalisation of diamond open access publishing. As higher education faces enormous challenges in the US, UK, and Europe, now is the time to make the case for an equitable transition away from exploitative commercial models. The OLH will continue to offer vital leadership, pressing the case to divest from shareholder-driven publishing and reinvest library funding in community-governed, nonprofit, and scholar-led models.

Raising investment for journals.

As a member of the Open Journals Collective, the OLH team will work with colleagues at mission-aligned publishers to raise additional investment for our diamond open access journals. Library income raised by the Open Journals Collective will be shared between the collective's nonprofit publishing members, providing protected funding for journals and their editorial teams.

Editorial advocacy.

Our goal in 2025-26 is to increase our community engagement activities among the OLH's own journal editors. We will also participate in wider efforts to advocate for moving journals away from commercial publishers to flip to nonprofit diamond open access. This will involve working closely with academic, publishing, and library partners to raise the international profile of journal 'flipping' programmes.

Accessibility and user experience.

The coming year will see the development of a new reader interface for Janeway's publicly accessible pages. This will deliver an improved reading experience that is both accessible and intuitive, reflecting the needs and expectations of our community of readers, authors, and editors. The OLH tech team will also develop a new design system and component library for Janeway's back office. This will make editorial and production workflows more consistent, accessible, and user-friendly.



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