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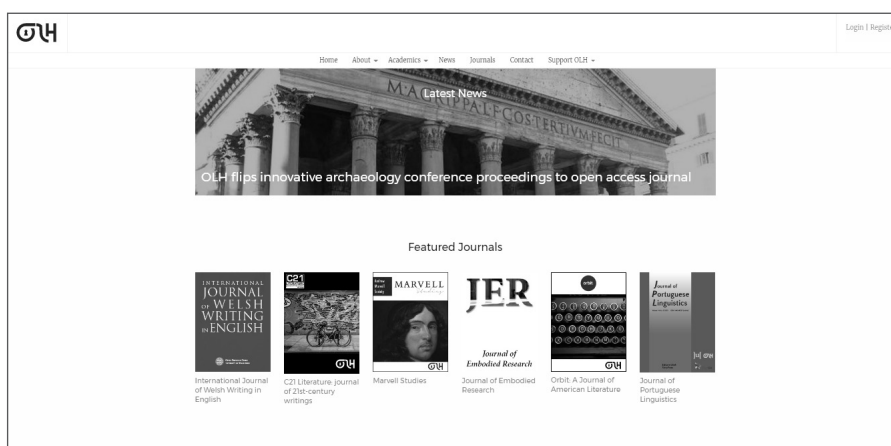
The Open Library of Humanities – an editor's dream!

<https://www.openlibhums.org/>

Five to ten years ago, when Open Access was becoming a big thing in Europe, the vast majority of discussions and developments were focussed on STEM subjects. I remember an editorial in a British newspaper, describing the frustrations of a Professor in the Humanities about feeling excluded and neglected from the progress of Open Access.

the OLH, forming the new journal, *Glossa*. The result was the same operational functionality as at Elsevier, but with a massive reduction in costs all around.

From the position of someone who supports Open Access, this is definitively a win for all involved. An outdated business model at Elsevier lost to a more efficient



Their frustrations were perhaps well-founded at the time. Politically, developments focused on STEM publishing, and were subsequently quite distorted to become more about sustainability for commercial publishers, rather than sustainability for science. This was seen as quite a step backwards by academics, many of who thought that Open Access would fuel activism from the research community and lead to wide-scale disruption of the traditional publishing model. Well, we were quite wrong about that.

The Open Library of Humanities (OLH), then, came as a breath of fresh air. The co-CEOs, Caroline Edwards and Martin Eve, are both top class academics in their own right, and with a strong history of publication and innovative thinking in this arena. This probably explains their clever and unique business model, based on a 'consortium' of libraries that share the costs of publishing among themselves. The more libraries that join the OLH, the cheaper it is for everyone. At the moment, more than 230 institutes have joined them, with names like Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Cambridge, and Imperial College, among those participating.

The result of this is that the OLH charges nothing for authors, is 100% Open Access, and the per-paper cost works out to be less than that for many of the larger commercial publishers. In around 18 months of operation, the OLH now publishes (or pays for) 23 fully Open Access journals.

The OLH provides the ability for journals to 'flip' from a subscription-based model to their platform. This gained much interest recently when the entire Editorial Board of the Elsevier journal, *Lingua*, packed up shop and moved to

competitor with charitable aims, the result of which was an empowering of the Linguistics research community. For an Editor, removing the author-side costs of the journal lowers the barriers to entry for potential authors and promotes fairness. Providing full Open Access is unequivocally better for all those who wish to learn from the research they publish. The main thing stopping other journals or university presses from doing the same is a general lack of awareness that 'journal flipping' is a real thing.

Expansion of the OLH could see the library consortium model spread across disciplines, and be a smart move towards a more sustainable scholarly publishing model for us all. The one question that remains for me is, when are we going to see an 'Open Library of STEM'?

On their website you can find:

- Get involved! – Information for journal editors for moving to a sustainable Open Access platform.
- Journals – All the journals the OLH currently publishes, growing all the time!
- Research integrity – Details on indexing, archiving, peer review, and anti-plagiarism checks at the OLH.
- Supporting institutions – Members of the rapidly growing library consortium fuelling the OLH.
- About – More information on the OLH, including the governance structure and project directors.

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