



Collective Funding for Diamond Open Access: Insights from the Open Library of Humanities



OLH Open Library of Humanities

**Scholar-led.
Community
owned.**



The Open Library of Humanities (OLH) is a scholar-led, not-for-profit academic publisher based at Birkbeck, University of London. We will never charge authors or readers to publish and access peer-reviewed research.



For free. For everyone. Forever.

We believe that scholarship should be academic-led and community-owned – our goal is to liberate university research from commercial control. We've spent 10 years building a sustainable business model for funding diamond open access publishing, proving that it can be affordable and scalable.





35 diamond OA journals.

We launched as a publisher in 2015 with just 7 journals. HSS editors apply to join our programme and flip their journals OA from subscription models.



We developed our own software.

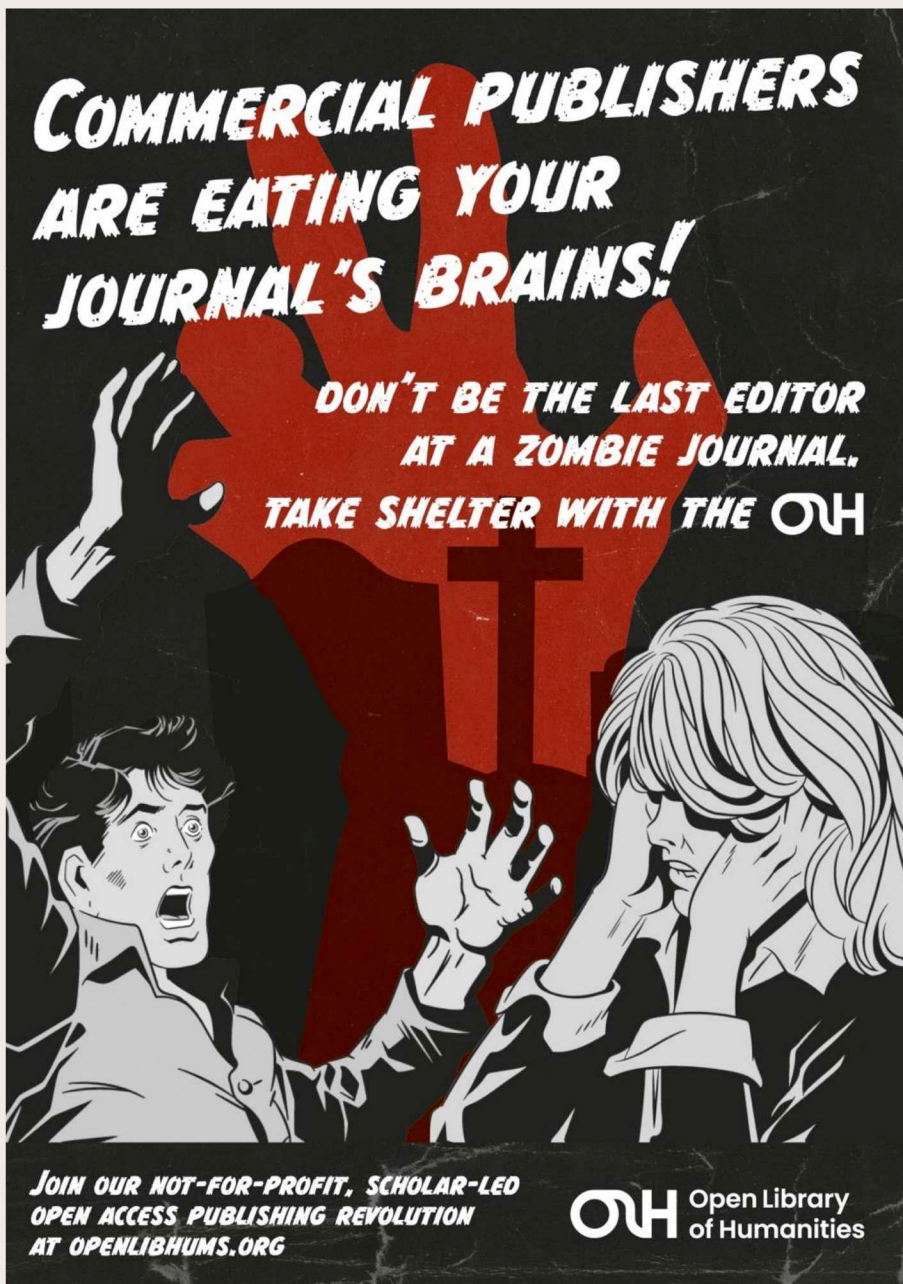
Our publishing platform is used by 400+ journals worldwide, with 50 clients using our hosted service. Clients include California Digital Library, UCL Press, University of Michigan Press, Iowa State Digital Press, Society for Clinical Data Management, University of Arizona Libraries.



Funded by 340+ libraries.

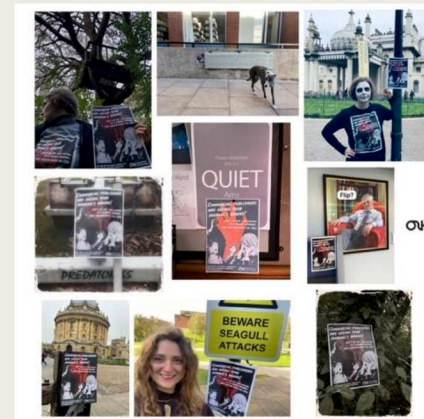
Our library members support our publishing activities. We are not-for-profit and our technology is open source under the Affero General Public License (AGPLv1).

Zombie Poster



Social media campaign

- Share and display the Zombie Poster.
- Print the poster, put it up on your office doors and anywhere editors will see it.
- Take a photo of the poster, use the [#OAWWeek](#) hashtag and tag [@openlibhums](#) on social media to make sure we see and share your photos.



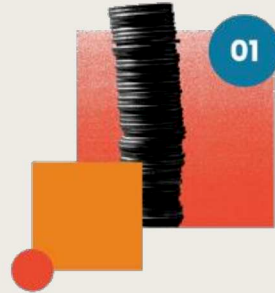
- *Regeneration: Environment, Art, Culture* (who left the University of Nebraska Press)
- *Political Philosophy* (who left Wiley)
- *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* (who left Wiley)
- *Review of the History of Economic Thought and Methodology* (who left Emerald Publishing)
- *[in]Transition: 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)
- *European Journal of Psychoanalysis*
- *Energy Humanities* (field-defining new journal)
- *The Hythe Review* (in partnership with the87press)
- *Philosophical Logic* (From Springer Nature)



How it works



Many universities and libraries contribute small, affordable sums.



These funds cover OLH publishing expenses and journal funding.

OLH journals publish research that is archived, secure and free to access.



OLH Diamond Open Access with a consortial funding model

How member support drives OLH development.

Standard-level OLH membership sustains our publishing activities and helps build open-source publishing technologies that benefit the entire academic community.

Higher-level OLH membership helps us expand. We use these funds to rescue high-profile titles that are at risk from commercialisation (which threatens their academic integrity) as well as journals that are ceasing publication due to austerity cuts to humanities research funding.

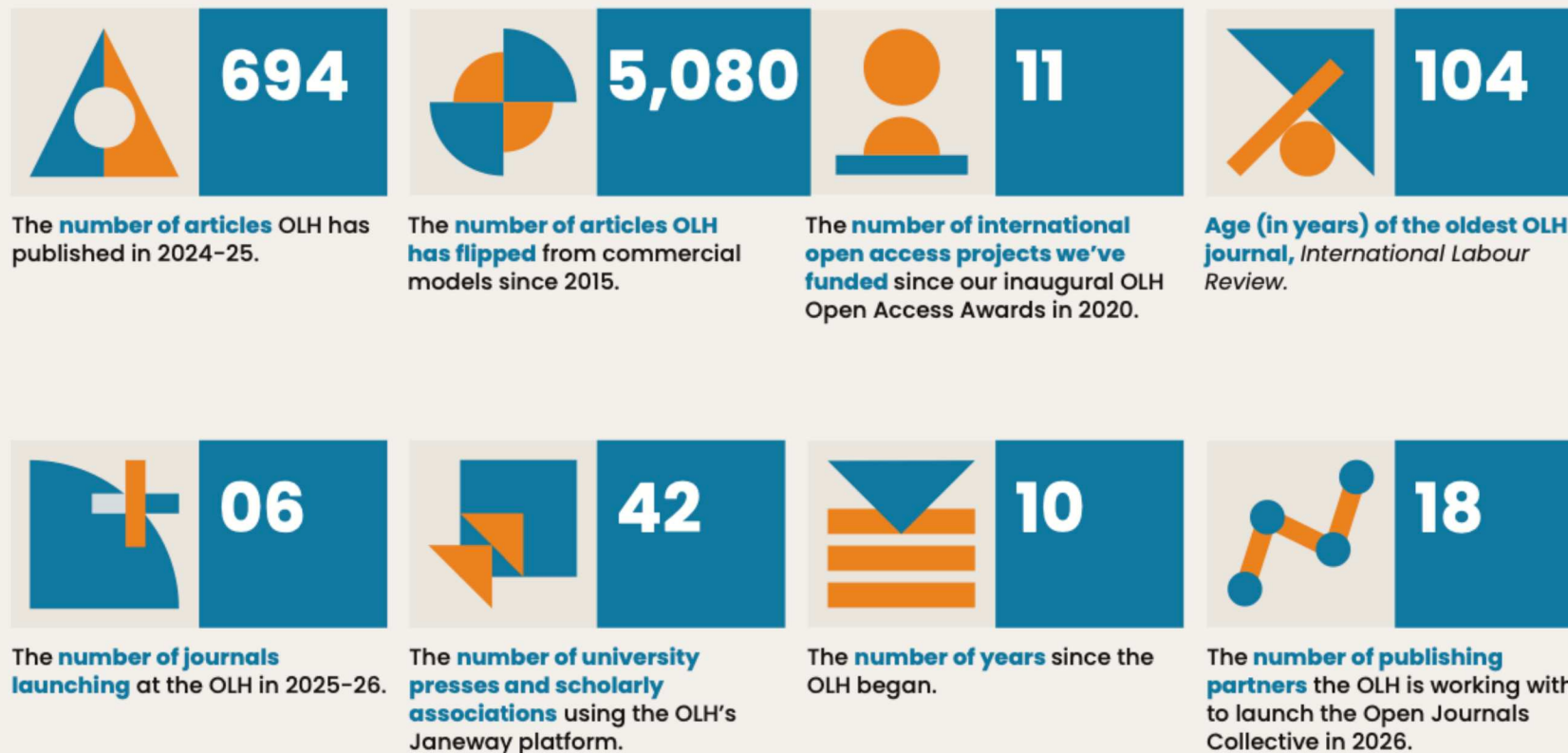
Country	Membership level			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
India	\$300	\$450	\$600	\$900
South Africa	\$850	\$1,270	\$1,700	\$2,550
Brazil	\$1,020	\$1,530	\$2,040	\$3,060
Czechia	€3,100	€4,660	€6,210	€9,310
Italy	€4,540	€6,820	€9,090	€13,630
Japan	\$5,310	\$7,970	\$10,630	\$15,940
France	€5,380	€8,080	€10,770	€16,160
UK	£5,000	£7,500	£10,000	£15,000
Germany	€6,420	€9,640	€12,850	€19,280
USA	\$9,610	\$14,420	\$19,230	\$28,840

Standard membership, 2023-2024

Country	Institution size		
	Small (0-4,999 students)	Medium (5,000-9,999 students)	Large (10,000+ students)
India	\$100	\$100	\$120
South Africa	\$180	\$260	\$340
Brazil	\$220	\$320	\$410
Czechia	€670	€960	€1,250
Italy	€980	€1,410	€1,830
Japan	\$1,150	\$1,650	\$2,140
France	€1,170	€1,670	€2,170
UK	£1,030	£1,545	£2,060
Germany	€1,390	€1,990	€2,590
USA	\$2,080	\$2,980	\$3,870

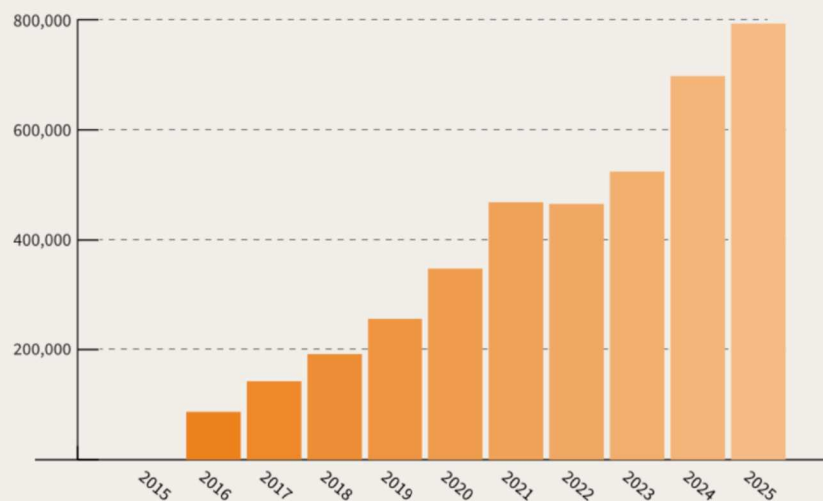
Higher membership levels, 2023-2024

02. Our year in numbers.

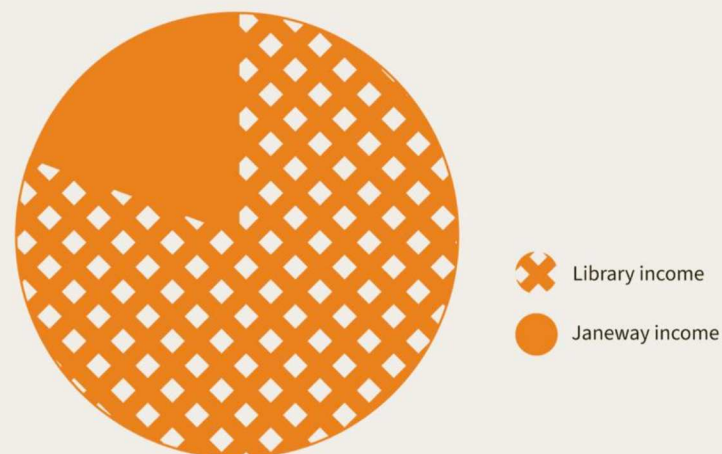


Income	Amount (£)
Library Memberships	636,702
Janeway Hosted Services	153,543
Total Income	790,245

OLH total income (£).



OLH income streams.



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

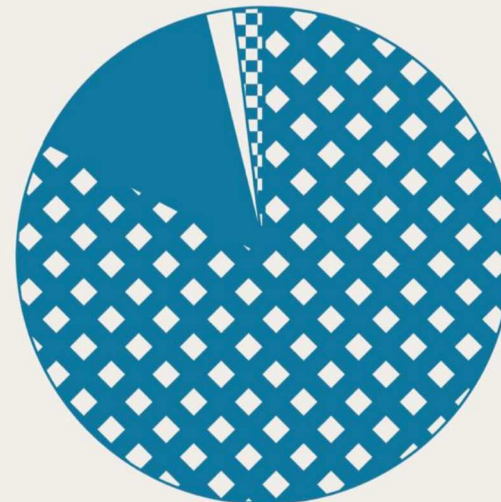
Graphic Design	9,385
Conference Travel & Accommodation	2,387
Printed Publicity Materials	247
OLH Award	1,000
Marketing Software & Tools	401
Total	13,420

Total Non-staff Costs 129,339

Total Expenditure 750,511

OLH Operating Reserve† 39,734

OLH expenses 2024-25.



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



Free access to hundreds of the world's leading academic journals.

[GET STARTED](#)



01

Publishing cutting-edge research.

We publish leading academic journals that are openly available – free to read, published with no embargos, and with no author payments. We believe that high-quality research should be available to all.



02

Giving back to research communities.

We work closely with libraries and funders to support the transition from a profit-driven commercial publishing model to a community-governed publishing model. All funds are invested in our journals and the research communities that make them possible.



03

Building a sustainable future for academic journals.

Our expertise as university-based publishers places us at the heart of the academic community. We provide a sustainable future for academic journals, providing financial, legal and technological support.



HOW IT WORKS

Existing funding

OJC top-up funding

NO FUNDING

FULL OJC SUPPORT

PARTIAL FUNDING

PARTIAL OJC FUNDING

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FUNDING

TOP-UP ONLY

OJC funding supplements existing journal support rather than replacing it.

Journals already funded through **library partnership models (e.g. OLH)** receive **reduced top-up funding** to avoid duplicate support.

Journals receive **£5,000–£25,000 per year**, depending on size, publishing volume, costs, and existing funding.

For OLH journals, OJC funding provides **supplementary support for publishing infrastructure and production**, while **core operations remain funded by OLH library members**.

Sustainability & scalability.

Working closely with our library members, we have the power to take a stand against exploitative commercial publishing practices and invest in progressive change in scholarly communications.

OLH demonstrates that diamond OA can be:

- **Affordable** – collectively funded by library partnerships
- **Transparent** – clear cost breakdowns and nonprofit governance
- **Scalable** – growing journals, infrastructure, and partnerships

Future investment focuses on:

- expanding editorial and technical capacity
- improving open-source infrastructure (Janeway)
- supporting journal flips away from commercial publishers
- strengthening collective initiatives such as the Open Journals Collective





Thank you



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