Open Library of Humanities

Diamond Open Access at the Open Library of Humanities



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.



41 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 / Hybrid models.

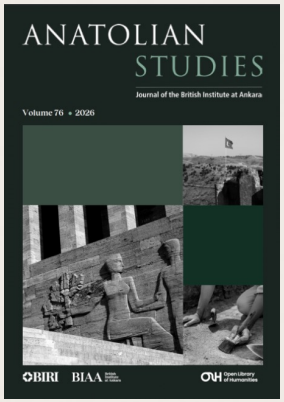


We developed our own software.
Our publishing platform is used by 400+ journals worldwide, with over 60 clients using our hosted service. Clients include California Digital Library, UCL Press, University of Michigan Press, Iowa State Digital Press, Society for Clinical Data Management, University of 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).

Over the past year, the OLH has welcomed **6 new journals**, including several high-profile “flips” away from major commercial publishers. Recent additions include



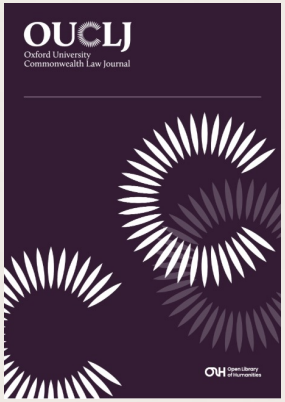
•***Anatolian Studies*** (Cambridge University Press flip)



• ***Medieval Sermon Studies*** (Taylor & Francis flip)



• **N*ordic Journal of African Studies*** (open access journal, at risk of closing without OLH funding)



• ***Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal*** (Taylor & Francis flip)



• ***Science Museum Group Journal*** (open access journal, at risk of closing without OLH funding)



• ***Semantics of Natural Languages*** (Springer Nature flip)

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.

Additional funding for OLH journals: OJC & Janeway

Alongside OLH's library membership programme, additional support comes through the **Open Journals Collective (OJC)** and **Janeway membership**.

OJC: Secured top-up funding for **29 OLH journals in 2026**, with a further **5 journals joining in 2027**.
Direct investment in journals: OJC funding supports editorial assistance, copy-editing, journal development and digitisation, helping improve long-term sustainability.

Janeway membership: Janeway members also contribute to funding OLH, providing an additional source of financial support.



02. Our year in numbers.



41

Number of **journals published by OLH.**



816

Number of **articles published by OLH journals** in 2025–26.



443

Number of **journal articles published in OLH's flagship *OLHJ*** since 2015.



13

Number of **staff working at OLH** in 2026 (including funded internships).



6

Number of **journals joining OLH** in 2025–26.



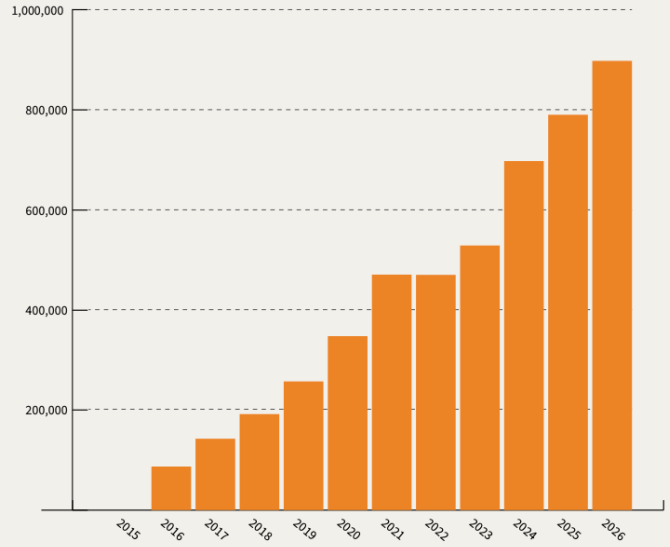
17

Number of **global projects** in **open access funded** by the OLH since 2020.

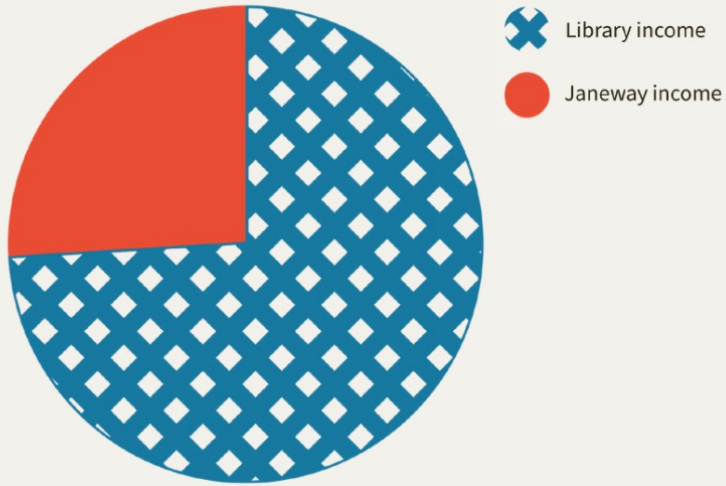
Financial breakdown, 2025–26.

Income	Amount (£).
Library Memberships	664,740
Janeway Hosted Services	233,075
Total Income	**897,815**

OLH total income (£).



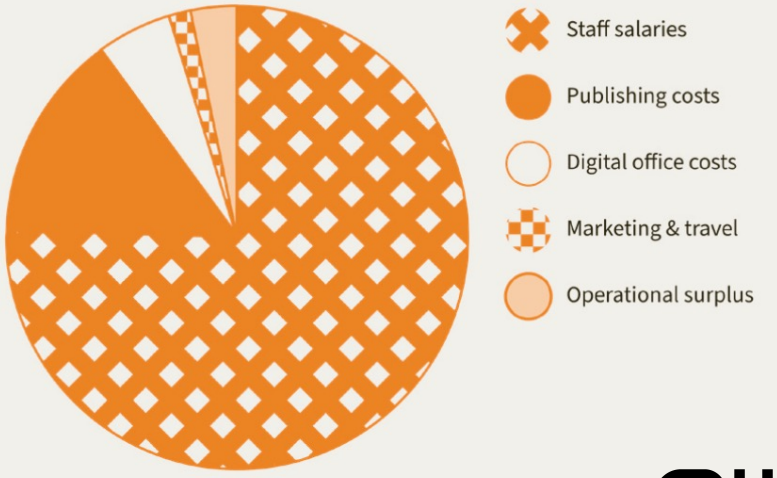
OLH income streams.



Expenditure	Amount (£)
Staff costs	
Staff Costs	677,035
Total	**677,035**
Publishing Costs	
Typesetting	122,127
Archiving, DOIs & Preservation	4,477
Website Hosting & Domain Registration	3,940
Total	**130,544**
Digital Office Costs	
Computer Hardware & Software, Equipment	2,076
Digital Security & IT infrastructure	19,785
Professional Memberships	648
Office Support*	25,134
Total	**47,643**

Marketing & Travel Costs	
Graphic Design	4,107
Conference Travel & Accommodation	4,462
Printed Publicity Materials	2,114
OLH Award	2,463
Marketing Software & Tools	527
Total	**13,673**
Total Non-staff Costs	**191,860**
Total Expenditure	**868,895**
OLH Operating Reserve†	**28,920**

OLH expenses 2025-26.



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

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Thank you

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