

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

PKP | PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

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Welcome



JOY JOHNSON

VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH AND
INTERNATIONAL
SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY

Congratulations on 20 years.

Since 2005, Simon Fraser University (SFU) has proudly served as the administrative home of PKP. Not only does PKP's flagship software, Open Journal Systems (OJS), support our knowledge mobilization efforts by enabling faculty, students, and postdoctoral fellows to publish the products of their research in journals that are open access, they are also transforming the landscape of teaching and learning.

In 2018, PKP's Associate Director of Research (and SFU Assistant Professor) Juan Pablo Alperin taught the [SFU President's Dream Colloquium Course on Making Knowledge Public](#). Dr. Alperin challenged students to confront their own assumptions and understandings of how research makes its way into society in part by having them create their own open access journal using OJS. Around the world, course journals using OJS are inspiring the next generation of researchers to make knowledge public.

It is for this, and the many other reasons you'll read throughout this report, that PKP plays a key role in SFU's strategic vision to become Canada's most community-engaged research university. We look forward, with anticipation, to what their third decade will bring.

Advisory Committee Report



ALLAN BELL

PKP ADVISORY
COMMITTEE CHAIR

ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIAN, DIGITAL
PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES,

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA

I've had the pleasure of working with OJS since 2009 and am honoured to represent the University of British Columbia where it all began back in 1998. The Advisory Committee continues to provide critical community-based governance, overseeing PKP finances and strategic directions. In 2018, we said goodbye to Brian Owen (Managing Director) and Joy Kirchner (OCUL Representative) and welcomed Kevin Stranack as our new Managing Director, Talia Chung as our new OCUL Representative, and Tanja Niemann as our new representative from Erudit, PKP's partner in the Canadian government funded Coalition Publi.ca project.

Just over a decade ago, the number of OJS journals was in the low hundreds and PKP's annual budget wasn't much more. This number has multiplied a hundredfold and our budget now represents a thriving operation with 28 full and part time staff. I look forward to continuing to watch PKP grow and evolve in my second year as Chair.

Director's Report



JOHN WILLINSKY

FOUNDER + DIRECTOR,
PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE
PROJECT

KHOSLA FAMILY
PROFESSOR,
STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

This year, PKP enters its third decade in pursuit of innovative and collaborative ways of advancing the public dimensions of scholarly communication. In 2018 our efforts were greatly informed by findings from a [community consultation](#) carried out on our behalf by Nancy Maron from BlueSky to BluePrint between 2017-18. The results provided us with a strong sense of both PKP's ongoing contributions globally and new horizons full of opportunities.

Our user community made it clear how aware they are of our open source software development, most notably, with the widely used Open Journal Systems (OJS), while reflecting less familiarity with Open Monograph Press (OMP), PKP Publishing Services (PKP|PS), and our research and advocacy efforts. While nothing is going to alter the emphasis we place on delivering the finest quality scholarly publishing tools, the study reminded us of the need to increase our efforts to create an awareness of our publishing services, research, and advocacy as well. After all, PKP|PS has been steadily growing into a major component of our financial sustainability, as well as a source of new software features. Our research and advocacy work also continues to flourish, especially through the exciting team of researchers who make up Juan Pablo Alperin's ScholCommLab, and through our subscribe-to-open advocacy for moving subscription journals to open access without APCs, embargoes or other impediments.

These three pillars – (1) open source software, (2) research, education, and advocacy, and (3) publishing services – give shape to the dynamic scope of our activities and will guide our work into the future. Going forward, you can expect to see growth in all three around our constant theme of advancing access to an improved quality of scholarly communication for the benefit of all.

Open Source Software

We create user-centered open source software and services.

NEW RELEASES

In 2018, PKP released OJS 3.1.1-1, 3.1.1-2, 3.1.1-4, and 3.1.2. OJS 3.1.2 introduced multilingual author/user names, major improvements to readership statistics, and new thematic tools for content organization. We also began releasing OJS and OMP simultaneously thereby streamlining development efforts. Major additions to our documentation were introduced to facilitate community involvement, including a new technical overview, a REST API reference guide, and a component library for our user interface.

USER EXPERIENCE

One of our major goals with OJS 3 is to deliver an outstanding user experience. Usability tests, made possible by our development partners at the University of Alberta, are just

one way we identify areas in our software requiring improvement. Usability tests were conducted in March 2018 and February 2019. We also expanded our expertise, welcoming three new staff with user interface/user experience (UI/UX), accessibility, and design backgrounds.

XML CONVERSION

PKP is now contributing to Grobid, an open source XML conversion utility. A 2018 evaluation demonstrated that Grobid converts documents from PDF to XML at a comparable accuracy rate to PKP's Open Typesetting Stack, but with less overhead and more speed. Efforts are now focused on improving Grobid's accuracy rate and implementing components of the article metadata model that aren't yet supported. PKP is contributing code, use cases, and documentation in active consultation with Grobid's lead developer and a consortium of publishers and developers.

THEMES

A theme controls the look and feel of a journal, including the colors, layout and typography. While users can code their own

look and feel, the introduction of themes in OJS 3 has made it easier for journals to publish an online site that fits their needs. Three new themes were added this year: [Classic](#), [Health Sciences](#), and [Immersion](#).

PLUGIN GALLERY

Since OJS 3.1.0, we have been encouraging the use of the Plugin Gallery to facilitate discovery and installation of plugins. The gallery has seen rapid uptake and has grown to 72 releases of 28 plugins representing a healthy “shared ownership” ecosystem.

PKP INDEX

The [PKP Index](#) is a curated database of articles, books, and conference proceedings covering all subject areas from publishers using PKP software. In 2018, the Index surpassed one million records (now at 1,016,640) indexed from more than 4,000 publications.

PRESERVATION NETWORK

PKP offers free digital preservation to OJS journals via the LOCKSS program. To date, 29,331 issues from 1,066 journals around the world have been preserved in the [Preservation Network](#) (PN) - more than 300 new journals added since last report. The top three countries represented (by number of journals) are USA, Brazil, and Indonesia.

HEIDELBERG SPRINT

Heidelberg University Library hosted a PKP [sprint](#) September 20-21, 2018 in Germany. The sprint was fully attended with 40 participants from 14 countries. In our usual unconference style, sprinters self-selected technical and non-technical topics to work on. Projects looked at plugin testing, editorial workflow, ORCID integration, technical documentation, XML workflow, translations, and vue.js. Special thanks to Heidelberg and OJS-de, the German OJS Network.

PREPRINT SERVER

In September 2018, PKP and SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online), announced plans to collaborate on the building of a preprint server system fully interoperable with OJS. Development of an open source multilingual preprint server will strengthen the sustainability of open access scholarly communication. The long-term vision is for a platform that can incorporate smart pre-pub services, such as XML markup, and add to the quality of preprints.

Research, Education, and Advocacy

We develop tools and services that facilitate open access.

PKP is currently working with Érudit on two Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) projects: Major Science Initiatives Fund (2017-22) and Cyberinfrastructure Grant (2017-2020). The Cyberinfrastructure Grant provides funding to combine OJS with Érudit's dissemination platform to develop a sustainable, non-commercial, open source infrastructure to advance research dissemination and digital scholarly publishing in Canada. In 2017, [Coalition Publi.ca](#) was formed to formalize the partnership between our two organizations. Coalition Publi.ca supports social sciences and humanities journals in the transition to open access. In 2018, CFI funding supported our work on JATS XML galley files and alternative metrics.

XML PUBLISHING

Coalition Publi.ca requires the conversion of journal metadata and content to JATS XML. Part of PKP's contributions to the shared CFI infrastructure in 2018 included three OJS plugins: 1) the JATS Template Plugin, which generates a basic JATS XML file for OJS articles that don't otherwise have a fulltext JATS XML file available; (2) the OAI JATS Plugin, which delivers JATS XML via OJS' OAI PMH interface, to be harvested by Érudit; and (3) PKP's Texture XML Editor Plugin, which provides a JATS XML editor to editors.

PAPERBUZZ

[Paperbuzz](#), now available in the OJS Plugin Gallery, is a free and open service built by Impactstory with PKP's support. It takes Crossref Event Data and calculates metrics for every article that has a digital object identifier. Paperbuzz offers Coalition Publi.ca's journals with a better understanding of the circulation of scholarship beyond simple usage metrics,

We conduct research that advances the understanding and acceptance of open access.

The [ScholCommLab](#) is home to visiting faculty, postdocs, students, and research collaborators from across the world. Co-directed by PKP's Juan Pablo Alperin and University of Ottawa's Stefanie Haustein, the Lab explores a wide range of questions using a combination of computational techniques, innovative methods, and traditional qualitative methods to investigate how knowledge is produced, disseminated, and used. In 2018, the Lab and PKP continued working on "Understanding the Societal Impact of Research Through Social Media" (2016 – 2019), a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council funded project to develop methods for identifying when research is shared by the public on social media. They also released several publications from the Open Society Foundations funded project for "Assessing Current Practices in Review, Tenure, and Promotion in the United States and Canada," which is shedding light on the incentive structures that encourage or discourage open publishing practices.

SUBSCRIBE-TO-OPEN

Subscribe-to-open (formerly Library + Funder) is a model for sustainable open access that makes the conversion of journals to open access possible on a sustainable basis. It is the work of [LIBRARIA](#), a collective of researchers, editors, and learned societies members, in which PKP is playing a leadership role, with support from the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. The model builds on PKP's "[Open Access Publishing Cooperative Feasibility Study](#)" funded by the MacArthur Foundation from 2015-2017. Subscribe-to-open offers libraries the option to "subscribe" to journals their communities value at similar prices and with similar quality to the journals under a closed subscription. In exchange, journals can go open without charging authors APCs, imposing embargoes on published work, placing restrictions on who can publish, or setting any other limits. In 2019-2020 Berghahn Journals and Annual Reviews will be piloting the subscribe-to-open model with academic libraries, with Brill and possibly others, planning to join in 2021.

We create community learning opportunities.

PKP SCHOOL

The [PKP School](#) is an online collection of free, self-paced courses. Participants learn how to use OJS as well as the skills necessary to write, edit, and review scholarly publications. In 2018, with the support of the Autonomous National University of Mexico, PKP translated two existing courses into Spanish: Setting up a Journal with OJS 3 and Editorial Workflow in OJS 3. With over 1700 OJS journals in Spanish-speaking countries, these courses are an important step towards serving our global community of users. A library publishing course is also in production, adapted from curriculum developed by the Educopia Institute and the Library Publishing Coalition in partnership with PKP, NASIG, and BlueSky to BluePrint.

PKP DOCS HUB

The [PKP Documentation \(Docs\) Hub](#) was launched in August 2018 following a year long documentation review by PKP community members and staff. PKP's software guides, developer documentation, and publishing tips are now all together in a standalone website that is easy to find, read, and contribute to. To

COURSE JOURNALS

Library publishers, including our own [SFU Library](#), are now using OJS to create journals for single courses. Courses can dive deep into scholarly publishing by designing their own custom journal or keep it simple by focusing on writing and reviewing. Working with their library publisher, instructors and students can take on different roles such as publisher, editor, reviewer, and author. The result is both empowering and educational. Course journals create a showcase for student work and enable students to think critically about how scholarship is created, and disseminated online.

facilitate contributions, the [Documentation Interest Group](#) (DIG) was also revitalized. The DIG is made up of members from development partner institutions, PKP staff, and other software users. In late 2018, they created guidelines and resources on how to contribute to documentation and began hosting bi-weekly virtual documentation sprints that anyone can join. New docs in 2018 included the "[GDPR Guidebook for PKP Users](#)" and "[Administrator's Guide](#)." In January 2019, "[Getting Found, Staying Found, Increasing Impact](#)" (2nd Edition) - a guide to open access publishing - was published on the Docs Hub.

PUBLICATIONS

Alperin, J.P., Muñoz Nieves, C., Niles, M., Schimanski, L.A., Fischman, G.E., Niles, M., & McKiernan, E. (2019). How significant are the public dimensions of faculty work in review, promotion, and tenure documents? *eLife*.
doi.org/10.7554/eLife.42254 2019

Maggio, L.A., Ratcliff, C., Krakow, M., Moorhead, L., Enkhbayar, A. Alperin, J.P. (2019). Making headlines: An analysis of US government-funded cancer research mentioned in online media. *BMJ Open*.
[10.1136/bmjopen-2018-025783](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-025783)

Schimanski, L. & Alperin, J.P. (2019). The evaluation of scholarship in academic promotion and tenure processes: Past, present, and future. *F1000*.
doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.16493.1

Willinsky, J. and JP Alperin. (2018). The academic ethics of open access to research and scholarship. In B. Smart, K. Peggs, and J. Burridge (Eds.), *Critical social research ethics*. Vol. 2. Los Angeles: Sage.

Willinsky, J. and Rusk, M. (2019). If research libraries and funders finance open access: Moving beyond subscriptions and APCs. *College & Research Libraries*, 80(3).

Willinsky, J. (2018). The academic library in the face of cooperative and commercial paths to open access. *Library Trends*, 67(2), 196-213.

Willinsky, J. (2018). The politics after postmodernism begins with the political economy of our own work. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 50(14), 1555-56.

Willinsky, J. (2018). The manifold ways in which language works: The generation after Dartmouth. In A. Goodwyn, C. Durrant, W. Sawyer, D. Zancanella, & L. Scherff (Eds.), *The future of English teaching worldwide: Celebrating 50 years of the Dartmouth Conference* (pp. 81-92). New York: Routledge.

Publishing Services

We provide outstanding publishing services.

PKP Publishing Services (PKP|PS) was established in 2007 as a means to sustain the continued development and enhancement of our software. Since then, our hosting, custom development, and consulting services have grown substantially. Today, PKP|PS revenue

supports approximately 50% of PKP's annual operating budget, a significant contribution to our financial health. In the 2018-19 fiscal year we continued to see growth including a 21% increase in journal hosting. We also achieved several goals from our 2017-21 strategic plan to streamline operations.

EXPAND SUPPORT

Expanding our team enables us to take on more involved work, especially as it relates to intricate design and custom theming. In 2018 we added two new systems and development staff. We also assigned new roles to two of our existing staff to create dedicated oversight for both support services and infrastructure management and development.

ENHANCE WORKFLOWS

Further professionalization of our services means faster response times and the ability for us to take on more involved work. In 2018, we selected a new customer relationship manager to streamline operations and aggregated three separate systems (ticketing, client tracking, and invoicing) into one system.

PKP COMMUNITY FORUM

PKP moderates a free, online [forum](#) where our software users can ask questions, share successes, and find solutions to common problems. To date, the Forum has 23K+ users from around the world including 2.2K new signups in 2018. What's trending? Top search terms in 2018 were "email," "jats," and "theme."

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Like many journals, Cultural Anthropology, the journal of the Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA), has faced several transformations. They first began using OJS in 2007 after their parent organization moved to a commercial publisher. In 2014, the SCA went open access and retrofitted their website, using OJS 2 to manage submissions and peer reviews. Finally, in 2017, a web redesign led them to consider OJS 3. At long last, OJS could achieve the contemporary design they desired. While OJS 3 offered a vastly improved reader interface, SCA still required a custom look and feel. Through sponsored development, SCA was able to achieve not only the look they wanted, but the functionality as well. In February 2019, Cultural Anthropology re-launched. What was once a custom addition on their website ("Curated Collections") was now a core OJS feature to allow editors to group published articles into thematic categories. The new feature was added to OJS 3.1.2 as a sponsored

development, providing journals with the ability to contextualize their content outside of the traditional table of contents structure.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota (UMN) Libraries Publishing Services first approached PKP|PS for support migrating from bepress to OJS. UNM subsequently became a hosted client, but something was missing. To provide their editors with the functionality they needed, UMN requested and agreed to sponsor a new article visualization feature. By sponsoring this work through PKP|PS, UMN made it available to all OJS users - just one of the ways our clients make OJS better, together. Released in 3.1.2, OJS can now display chart and graph representations of article usage, including refinement by date and journal section, author name, and submission. This work is ongoing, with support from UMN, and is based upon underlying improvements to the OJS API.

Better, Together

Our successful growth is the result of countless individuals, organizations, libraries, funding agencies, and publishers.

PKP develops consultative relationships with institutions, publishers, and other agencies that have closely aligned strategic goals. In 2018, we welcomed three new strategic partners.

EKT (NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE) OF GREECE

EKT has provided code contributions and Greek translations for OJS and are one of the international nodes participating in the PKP PN. Formalizing our relationship acknowledges recent collaborations and provides a foundation for new initiatives.

COUNCIL OF PRAIRIE AND PACIFIC UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

PKP and COPPUL are collaborating on the development of their respective Community LOCKSS Networks and, where possible, share resources and expertise in support of PKP platforms and the preservation of COPPUL members' digital collections.

UBIQUITY PRESS

Ubiquity has used OJS to manage the editorial process for its journals since inception. Under our new agreement, Ubiquity commits to releasing all of their OJS development work under an open source license and contributing the code back to the core code base to benefit the entire PKP community.

MAJOR FUNDERS

PKP gratefully acknowledges funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

THANK YOU

PLATINUM LEVEL (\$15,000)

University of Toronto Libraries

GOLD LEVEL (\$10,000)

Indiana University

SciELO

York University

SILVER LEVEL (\$5,000)

Indianapolis University

Ubiquity Press

University of Calgary

University of Guelph

University of Illinois Chicago

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

University of Manitoba

University of Miami

University of New Brunswick

University of Ottawa

University of Victoria

University of Western Ontario

University of Windsor

BRONZE LEVEL (\$2,500)

1Science

Biteca

Brock University

Carleton University

Dalhousie University

McMaster University

Ohio State University

Queen's University

University of Arizona

University of Groningen

Université Laval

University of North Texas

University of Tennessee

Wilfrid Laurier University

SUPPORTERS (\$1000 – \$2499)

Indiana University – UIPUI

Laurentian University

University of Florida

University of Ontario Institute of
Technology

University of Waterloo

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The following institutions continue to serve as development partners: Ontario Council of University Libraries, Simon Fraser University, Stanford University, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Financial Summary

Continuing our work depends upon creating a sustainable home for PKP.

PKP's financial management utilizes SFU's financial system and therefore adheres to all standard institutional budget procedures and policies. The fiscal year is April 1 – March 31. All budget amounts are in Canadian dollars. Conversion rates from USD and other currencies to Canadian equivalents are set by SFU Finance.

REVENUES

Publishing Services	\$632,788.73
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Grants	\$575,827.61
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Development Partners/Sustainers	\$165,893.10
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SFU Library (in-kind)	\$64,328.23
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TOTAL	\$1,438,837.67
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EXPENSES

Administration	\$5,328.21
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Infrastructure	\$47,635.06
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Community Support	\$84,723.81
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Personnel	\$1,028,050.79
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TOTAL	\$1,165,737.87
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PKP

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