

Ubiquity

10
years



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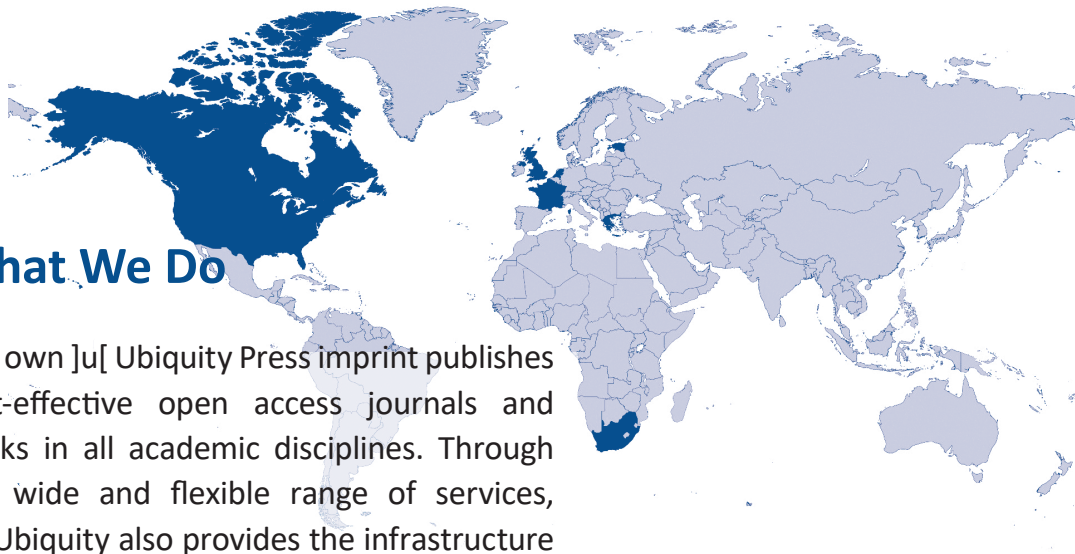
Who we are

Brian Hole founded ju[Ubiquity as a researcher, to actively accelerate change towards open access and open science. 10 years on, we continue to drive the development of open access as a universal movement.

We believe that the aim of academic publishing should be the widest possible dissemination of research, and therefore that it should always be 100% open access. To enhance the reuse potential and impact of research, we also strongly support publishing at all stages of the research lifecycle, such as data, software and preprints.

All of our platforms use open source code, allowing us to benefit from the expertise of the open source community, and to contribute the improvements we make back to the community for the benefit of all.

Our offices are based in London in the UK and in the USA in California, with ju[Ubiquity team members based all over the world. We are a highly dynamic organisation of professional and passionate experts, dedicated to making open access and open science accessible to all.



What We Do

Our own ju[Ubiquity Press imprint publishes cost-effective open access journals and books in all academic disciplines. Through our wide and flexible range of services, ju[Ubiquity also provides the infrastructure and support for institutions running their own presses, provides a hosting platform for journals, and hosts repositories suitable for any size of institution. Through these services, we support open access at all stages of the research cycle.

“Since its inception, the ju[Ubiquity team has been fully dedicated to open access and a scholar-centric approach to academic publishing. Today we have a team of around 30 who have a clear vision for a more open world, and know how to help our authors, presses and institutions get there.”

BRIAN HOLE, CEO



The]u[Ubiquity Story

Whilst undertaking a PhD in archaeology at University College London, CEO Brian Hole found himself frustrated by the lack of progress towards open access and open science. After doing some work migrating journals to open access using the open source software Open Journal Systems (OJS), he founded]u[Ubiquity in 2012 with the aim of bringing academic research to the widest possible audience with open access, and at the lowest possible cost through]u[Ubiquity Press.

In the following years,]u[Ubiquity Partner Presses was born to provide the infrastructure and expertise to enable university and society presses to commit to open access publishing.

As well as publishing its own journals under its imprint]u[Ubiquity Press,]u[Ubiquity Hosted Journals were integrated to cater for journals which required only infrastructure support. Following a development partnership with the British Library, the]u[Ubiquity Repositories platform was launched in 2021 to support scholarly dissemination at all stages of the research lifecycle, with full support for research data, software, preprints, theses, open educational resources, and any other type of intellectual output that any institution would like to disseminate.

At the end of 2022,]u[Ubiquity joined forces with De Gruyter to advance both publishers' mission to make academic research globally accessible and discoverable by offering excellence in publishing services.

]u[ubiquity

]u[ubiquity press

]u[ubiquity hosted journals

]u[ubiquity partner presses

]u[ubiquity repositories

Along its journey over the past 10 years,]u[Ubiquity has expanded and adapted, but has always kept the same goal: to create an open future for research and knowledge.

10 years

2012.....

]u[Ubiquity is founded

Following exploratory work on publishing open access material,]u[Ubiquity was founded as a for-profit company. This ensured the sustainability of our open access mission – especially given the lack of affordable, financially viable open access options in humanities publishing.

of]u[Ubiquity

.....2017.....

MILESTONE: 200 JOURNALS

.....2016.....

**MILESTONE: 100 JOURNALS
MILESTONE: 15 PRESSES**

.....2018.....

MILESTONE: 500 JOURNALS

]u[Customer Charter is published

As a response to ongoing acquisitions in the open access world that were causing concern among the community, we established our customer charter, which guarantees that]u[Ubiquity Press's core products will always be open access, open source, and unbundled, even in the event of a change of control, overseen by our Partner Advisory Board.

.....2020.....

MILESTONE: 700 JOURNALS

.....2019.....

MILESTONE: 30 PRESSES

.....2021.....

]u[Repositories launched

Following a development partnership with the British library, we launched an open source, cloud-hosted, multi-tenant repository platform. The repositories enable]u[Ubiquity to support scholarly dissemination at all stages of the research lifecycle, for any type of intellectual output.

]u[Ubiquity obtains its ISO 27001 certification

To provide customers with assurance that we handle data with the highest standards of integrity,]u[Ubiquity worked to obtain an ISO 27001 certification – which details the requirements for businesses to securely manage information assets and data to an internationally recognised standard.

2013

Ju[Ubiquity journals are launched

Following the success of its initial journals, Ju[Ubiquity launched itself as a press, publishing journals with a full level of service for academic societies. This service included a platform based on the open source platform Open Journal Systems (OJS) with a distinctive front-end, as well as providing editorial support from a team of expert editorial managers. One of our first journals was Stability: International Journal of Security & Development, now considered a model for open access publishing in the humanities and social sciences.

Ju[Ubiquity moves into open access book publishing

When it became clear that there was also a need for open access book publishers in the humanities, Ju[Ubiquity expanded again to start providing a book publishing service. Our first published book was Studies in Strindberg, by Michael Robinson.

2015

MILESTONE: 50 JOURNALS

Ju[Hosted Journals are launched

A journal hosting service was added to the platform, especially suited to journals from less well-funded disciplines and those in LMIC countries, with cost flexibility in mind. These journals have full access to the Ju[Ubiquity journals' platform but no editorial or production support. As a result, many journals in the developing world joined the platform, through a partnership with INASP.

2014

MILESTONE: 5 PARTNER PRESSES

Ju[Ubiquity Partner Press Network is launched

Having established a successful online press platform in open access, Ju[Ubiquity decided to extend its model to institutions that were struggling to do the same. Partner Presses have access to fully re-branded press platforms and professional services, allowing them to run at low risk, and to share resources through the Ju[Ubiquity Partner Network.

2022

MILESTONE: 800 JOURNALS

MILESTONE: 32 PRESSES

MILESTONE: 8 REPOSITORIES

Ju[joins forces with De Gruyter

We are committed to our independence and our open access charter, and always will be. That's why we joined forces with De Gruyter, to provide us with resources that will allow us to dedicate ourselves to our open access mission without compromising our plans or our core values.

“We are thrilled to join forces with De Gruyter, with whom we are very well-aligned in terms of values and a commitment to growing open access. De Gruyter's Publisher Partner Program is a perfect example of where we can together provide a more comprehensive set of solutions. In particular De Gruyter's status as a family-owned company gives us and our community a strong assurance of a stable, long-term partnership and investment, with which we can continue to advance our mission in all areas of open access and open science.”

BRIAN HOLE, CEO

What next?

With investment from our partnership with De Gruyter providing us with extra resources and allowing us to continue operating independently, we are working at expanding the Ju[Ubiquity team to support further development of our platforms. One of our strengths as a company has always been the ability to react to what is happening in the scholarly community, while continuing to work on the cutting edge of open access, and we are always looking for the next opportunity to support the research community.

Our Core Values

At]u[Ubiquity, we're dedicated to our core values: openness, trust, change, and empathy. We have always been committed to shaping an open future, and we firmly believe this goes beyond simply providing open access products.



Openness

We are dedicated to open access, open data, open science, and open scholarship in general. We are also committed to open infrastructure, actively contributing to the development and maintenance of open source platforms that underpin our core services.



Trust

We work in partnership with researchers, universities, and academic societies, and believe that all partnerships depend on trust. We guarantee to remain 100% open access and in support of open infrastructure.



Change

We believe that publishing and research communication need to evolve along with the needs of researchers. We challenge older models that impede the equitable exchange of knowledge, and encourage innovation.



Empathy

We empathise closely with our partners and community, and work hard to enable them to be successful on their terms. We have an open, supportive working environment, and encourage our staff to grow and develop.

“Ubiquity is proud to be helping academic institutions and scholarly societies create, develop and maintain their own open access publishing operations. We see all activity on the platform as part of a wide partnership between all stakeholders, culminating in the]u[Ubiquity Partner Network, where each partner is able to retain control of their content and brand. Our commitment to transparent pricing, open source technology (included within our charter) and no-lock-in contracts, helps us to not only increase the transfer to fully open access publishing, but allows us to rebuild trust within the academic publishing ecosystem.”

TIM WAKEFORD, PRODUCT DIRECTOR (PUBLISHING SERVICES & PARTNER PRESSES)

Journals & Articles

Over the past ten years,]u[Ubiquity and its Partner Presses have published close to 50,000 articles.

48,219

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

18,267,056

TOTAL VIEWS

5,043,752

TOTAL DOWNLOADS

Most viewed article

Myrberg, C. and Wiberg, N., 2015. Screen vs. paper: what is the difference for reading and learning?. *Insights: the UKSG journal*, 28(2), p.49-54.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.236>

210,556 views

Most downloaded article

Alter, G., Falk, B.H., Lu, S. and Ostrovsky, R., 2018. Computing Statistics from Private Data. *Data Science Journal*, 17, p.31.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/dsj-2018-031>

138,380 downloads

Most Cited

Thielicke, W. and Stamhuis, E.J., 2014. PIVlab – Towards User-friendly, Affordable and Accurate Digital Particle Image Velocimetry in MATLAB. *Journal of Open Research Software*, 2(1), p.e30.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/jors.bl>

1,762 citations

Most shared on Twitter

Descartin, K., Redko, C. and Khalil, N., 2016. Global burden of disease: diabetes burden and its relation to socioeconomic, environmental, behavioral, and health risk factors in low- to middle-income Southeast Asia. *Annals of Global Health*, 82(3), pp.383–384.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.aogh.2016.04.623>

50,699 shares

Books & Presses

Over the past ten years,]u[Ubiquity and its partners have published over 3,000 open access books. Here is a look at some of the books published by]u[Ubiquity Press and its Partner Presses.

3,006

BOOKS PUBLISHED

647,464

TOTAL VIEWS

916,345

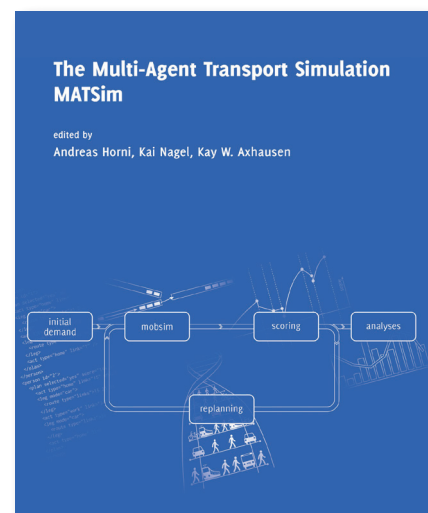
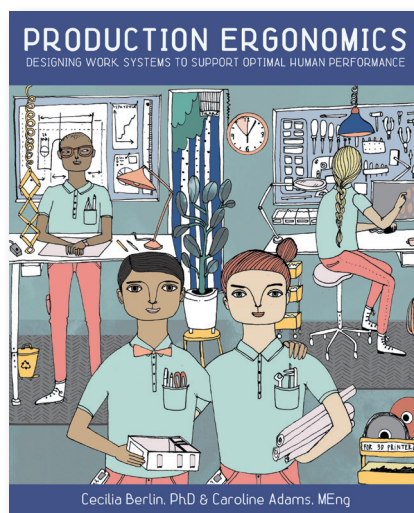
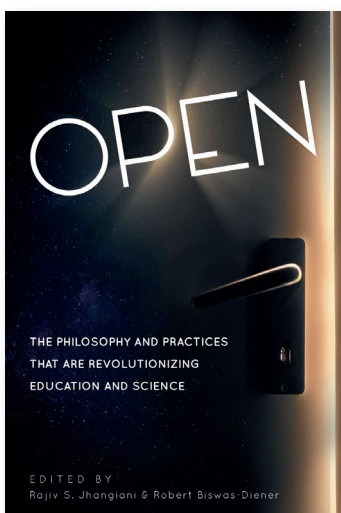
TOTAL DOWNLOADS

Top 3]u[Ubiquity Press Books

Jhangiani, R.S. and Biswas-Diener, R., 2017. *Open: The Philosophy and Practices that are Revolutionizing Education and Science*. London:]u[Ubiquity Press.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/bbc>
50,938 downloads

Berlin, C. and Adams, C., 2017. *Production Ergonomics: Designing Work Systems to Support Optimal Human Performance*. London:]u[Ubiquity Press.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/bbe>
61,334 downloads

Horni, A et al. (eds.) 2016. *The Multi-Agent Transport Simulation MATSim*. London:]u[Ubiquity Press.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/baw>
37,444 downloads, 208 citations



Top 3 ju[Ubiquity Partner Press Books ←

Dunleavy, P., Park, A. and Taylor, R., 2018. *The UK's Changing Democracy: The 2018 Democratic Audit*. London: LSE Press.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31389/book1>

38,259 downloads

Campante, F., Sturzenegger, F. and Velasco, A., 2021. *Advanced Macroeconomics: An Easy Guide*. London: LSE Press.

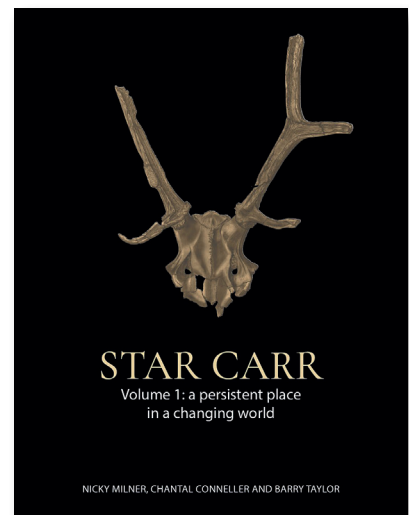
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31389/lsepress.ame>

21,750 downloads

Milner, N., Conneller, C. and Taylor, B., 2018. *Star Carr Volume 1: A Persistent Place in a Changing World*. York: White Rose University Press.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22599/book1>

19,179 downloads



Past & Future with CEO Brian Hole

How does your original vision of]u[Ubiquity compare with where the company is today? Has your direction for the company shifted in a way you didn't anticipate?

The original vision for]u[Ubiquity was to make quality OA publishing in the Humanities and Social Sciences affordable. We've certainly succeeded there, and then been able to extend this out to all other disciplines. At the beginning we had no idea that we would eventually also support university presses and institutional repositories, but these were natural areas to move into as we grew and listened to our partners.

What is your vision of the next ten years like for]u[Ubiquity?

I believe we will grow the]u[Ubiquity Partner Network significantly, as the surge in new university presses grows and many established presses move to open models. Similarly we can expect the number of repositories we support to expand quickly, as there is a real need for more modern and professional, yet open platforms. A key evolution for us will be in developing and integrating these systems, to provide institutions with new capabilities in areas such as preprints and research data management.

How does the open access landscape compare to ten years ago?

While the percentage of OA publications has increased overall, there is still a lack of

true dedication to OA on behalf of the large legacy publishers. They have only proved to be willing to move on this when it was to their business advantage, enabling them to retrench their positions. This is one of the significant drivers for the resurgence in university and library-based publishing, as institutions are fed up and don't have faith in solutions that depend on these publishers.

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing OA publishing and academic publishing in general today?

We're moving the right way, but the pace of change is still slow. This is partly due to the overall conservative nature of academia, but also to the delaying tactics of the legacy publishing industry. More governments, funders and institutions need to accept that a proper solution that makes academic information freely available without massively wasting taxpayer money and library funding, cannot include support for their massive profits.

Are there any developments in OA that are you particularly excited or hopeful about?

The ongoing resurgence of university presses is critical for re-establishing publishing diversity and moves to faster and more open models such as preprints, keeping publishing relevant to new generations of researchers. It will be interesting in particular to see whether preprints become a solution that helps to close the publishing gap for researchers in the developing world.

.....▶ **When we say that we support open access for all, we mean it. It is essential to us that we increase the ability to publish in open access, not just for our authors and partners, but for everyone. That's why it's a core pillar of our mission to support the open access and open source communities in any way we can.**

“In accordance with]u[Ubiquity’s charter, we run our journals and repositories on open source platforms (OJS and Hyku, respectively) which we continuously improve – so that customers are not locked-in and know that their fees directly contribute to advancements in open infrastructure.”

TOM MOWLAM, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

ACTIVE OPEN SOURCE INVOLVEMENT

Our journals and repository platforms are all based on open source software. We believe that in addition to our mission to make open access available to everyone, it’s also our duty to support and contribute to communities that are actively creating a better open access world. We therefore use and support several open source systems: OJS for our journal platforms, Hyku for our repositories platform, OPERAS Metrics for all platforms, and Rua, our self-created open source platform for open access book workflow management. We’re constantly working to make improvements and extensions to these open source systems based on the needs of our users. All code is then fed back to the open source communities so that everyone can benefit from it.

By using open source software we not only have the ability to modify our platform as we need to, but also to keep costs low and pass on those savings on to customers. Open source is also attractive to our partners because it limits lock-in, making migration simple and self-hosting a viable alternative if desired in future.

Open Journal Systems (OJS): Helping Improve the World’s Most Widely Used Journals Platform

Our team of developers actively contributes to the OJS platform by fixing bugs, making general improvements, and by creating new functionalities specifically for running open access journals. Here are some examples of features the]u[Ubiquity team has released:

OJS API

We built an API that makes it possible for 3rd party applications to exchange data with OJS. This key improvement allows OJS to work with other platforms and makes it easier to customise.

Subject Taxonomy

The addition of a subject taxonomy enables articles to be more precisely classified, streamlining the submissions process and making browsing and searching for content more accurate. This is an important improvement for large and multi-disciplinary journals.

Suggested Reviewers

This improvement allows authors to pass suggestions for potential peer-reviewers of their papers to the journal editorial team to include or exclude. This helps to make the peer-review process faster and smoother by keeping it within the platform.

Disable Submissions

This improvement allows editors to disable submissions for specific section of a journal, preventing submissions to invited or time-limited sections for example.

Competing Interests

This improvement enables a journal to better follow best practice by adding a competing interest statement to submissions. This information is then easier for editors, reviewers and readers to check.

Submission Filters

This improvement increases the productivity of the editorial workflow, by allowing submissions to be filtered and assigned by category.

Security Improvements

An example of an improvement to security has been a change to ensure that OJS login information encoded in cookies cannot be intercepted.

Hyku: Helping to Improve a Next-Generation Repository Platform

]u[Ubiquity Repositories are built on open infrastructure, and we contribute all of our code back to the Samvera Hyku community. We're constantly listening to feedback to improve and expand the platform. Here are some examples of features]u[Ubiquity has released back to the community:

Rest API

We built a REST API with configurable authentication. This is a critical feature enabling the repositories to exchange content and data with other institutional platforms and research systems.

Author profiles

This improvement provides authors with profile pages in the repository, showcasing all of their work in one place. Authors are motivated to deposit as all content can be synchronised with ORCID, saving them time and promoting their work even more widely.

DOI Minting

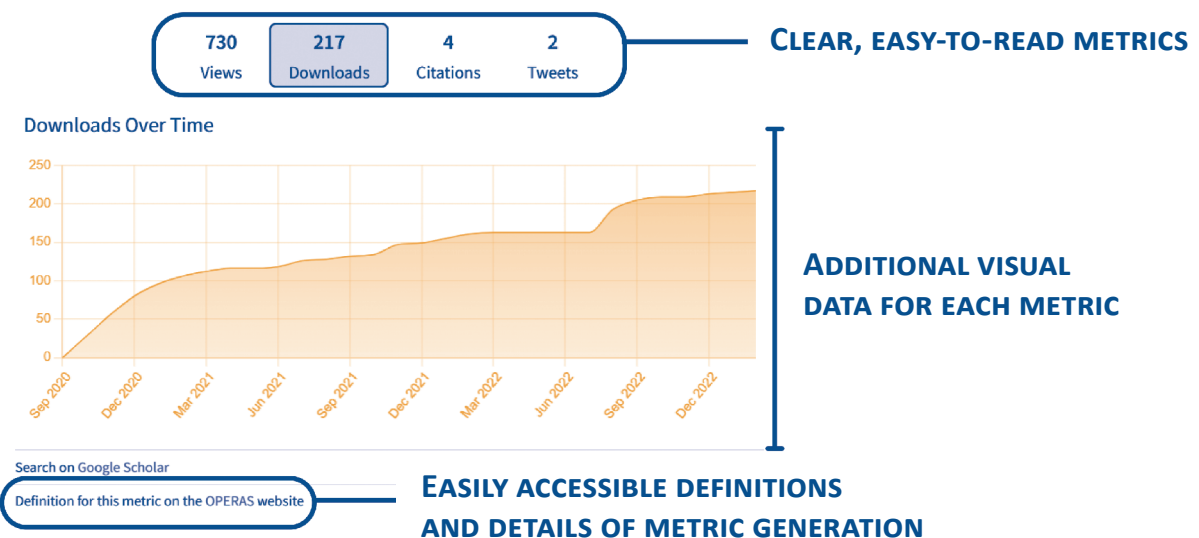
The ability to mint DOIs within the system is an important feature missing from many repository platforms. This provides better tracking of metrics, improved preservation, and demonstrates to researchers that their content is being treated as seriously as on a publisher website.

Enhanced and Alternative Metrics

By integrating OPERAS Metrics with the platform, we have added publisher-level metrics to all works. Views and downloads are provided from multiple sources and authors and readers can now see many other indicators of impact such as citations, tweets, and Wikipedia mentions.

OPERAS Metrics: An Open Source, High Quality Metrics Service

]u[Ubiquity is the main technology partner of the OPERAS Metrics service, which provides a comprehensive and open source alternative metrics system for open access publishers. It interrogates several platforms simultaneously to provide a full profile of metrics for a work, allowing better insight into the impact of content. OPERAS Metrics are available on all]u[Ubiquity's services, including journals, books, and repositories.



]u[Ubiquity has contributed the following features to OPERAS Metrics, among others:

Metrics API

The API makes the metrics available for consumption by participating publishers and all]u[Ubiquity platforms.

Metrics Widget

This widget adds OPERAS Metrics to a publisher's website, instantly providing an improved user experience.

Alternative Metrics

]u[Ubiquity has provided OPERAS Metrics with the ability to source citations and alternative metrics such as tweets, and Wikipedia mentions, enabling it to provide better insight on the impact of a work.

Rua:]u[Open Source Monograph Workflow System

As well as supporting the development of existing open source platforms,]u[Ubiquity has also created Rua, an open source application designed to support open access book publishing. Rua covers the whole monograph publishing lifecycle, from proposal and submission through to peer review, copy editing, production, and publication.

Rua is entirely open source, and free to be used by anyone for publishing books.

BRINGING OPEN ACCESS TO ALL

We believe that open access publishing benefits academic communities everywhere. To make open access publishing sustainable, we keep our article processing charges (APC) and book processing charges (BPC) as low as we can, and are always transparent about our pricing. Our selection of services and our flexibility allow us to provide institutions exactly the open access services they need, at a price they can afford.

In some cases, we recognise that more support is needed to help open access communities flourish and make their contributions accessible to everyone, especially in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs).

Helping these communities to make their research accessible benefits not only them, but the global academic community as a whole. That is why we've dedicated support to the Journals Online Project (JOL) which provides a platform for journals from LMICs and ensures that their research can be found, shared, and used more effectively.

The Journals Online Project

The Journals Online (JOL) Project was started by International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP) in 1998, with the aim of providing increased visibility, accessibility, and quality of peer-reviewed journals published in developing countries. It started with African Journals Online (AJOL), and later expanded to include journals published in Nepal (NepJOL), Bangladesh (BanglaJOL), Vietnam (VJOL), the Philippines (PhilJOL), Sri Lanka (SLJOL), Mongolia (MongoliaJOL) and Central America (CAMJOL).

.....▶ INASP & the Early Days

When the project started in 1998 with AJOL, most of the participating journals were not available online, and many were only available as printed copies within a single institution with no global visibility.

The JOL project worked with the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) to find a way to host many journals on a single site, so that the research output of a whole country or region could be hosted centrally. With INASP's technical expertise and support, along with this new infrastructure in place, the AJOL journals were transferred online as open access publications. Journals of other countries and regions soon followed.

Initially the project planned to support each local publishing initiative for three years – one year of set up, one year of running, and one year of handover. Instead, the support continued on until 2018 when funding ran out.

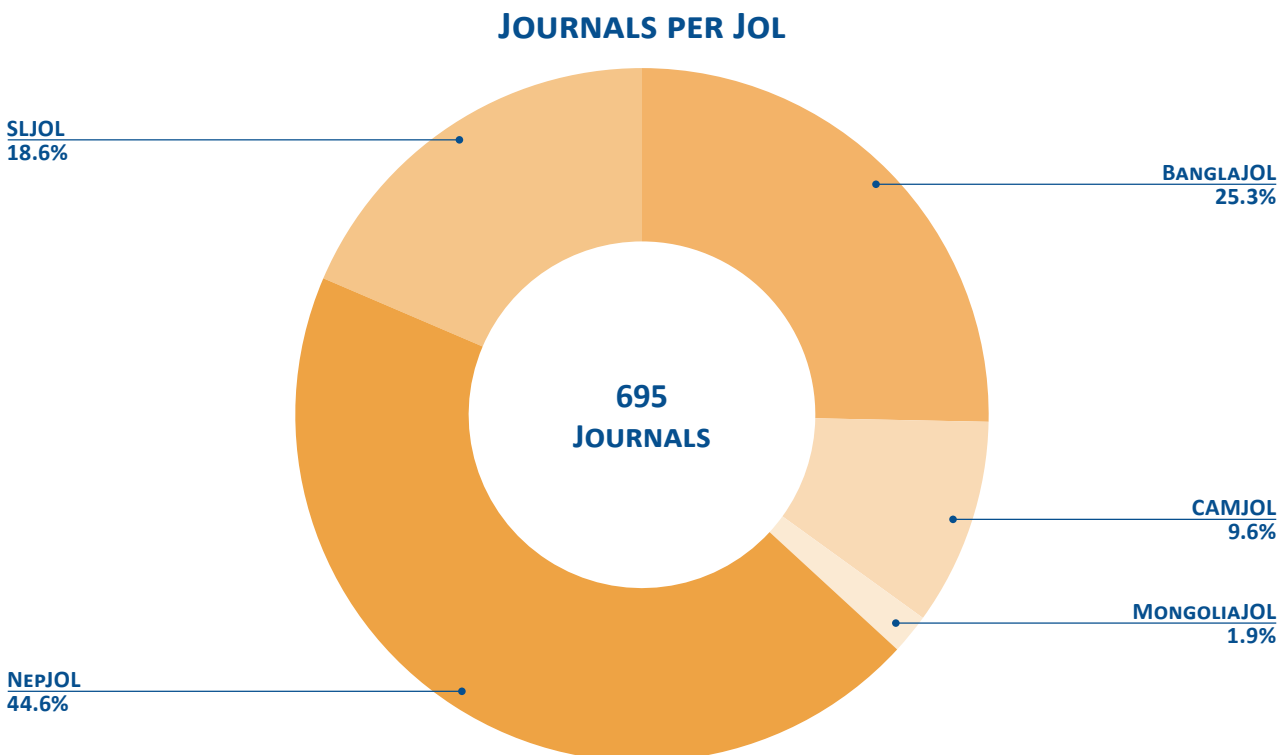
]u[Ubiquity steps in

When CEO Brian Hole presented at an INASP conference in 2017, it became clear that]u[Ubiquity shared the same priorities, values, and determination to drive open access as the JOL project. To support that initiative with a long-lasting solution,]u[Ubiquity created a new service,]u[Ubiquity Hosted Journals, providing infrastructure and journal hosting without the expense of the additional editorial and production services.

]u[Ubiquity further tailored this service specifically for the JOLs, to ensure that it would remain sustainable and scalable in the long term. Each local initiative constitutes its own press hosted on the]u[Ubiquity platform, while the management of the journals is locally organised. A huge growth in the number and diversity of the journals within the JOLs resulted as a direct consequence of their migration to]u[Ubiquity. Their scope expanded from focusing on a few large institutions in the biggest or most populated cities, to encompassing all sizes of research institutions across the regions. As a result, almost every discipline is now covered, from STEM through to the humanities, supporting local governments, inhabitants, farmers, engineers or doctors in their everyday life decisions with sound academic local information and data.

The JOLs today

Today,]u[Ubiquity hosts five JOLs representing 695 individual journals: BanglaJOL (Bangladesh Journals Online), CAMJOL (Central American Journals Online), MongoliaJOL (Mongolian Journals Online), NepJOL (Nepal Journals Online), and SLJOL (Sri Lankan Journals Online).



Sri Lankan Journals online Case Study

SLJOL started with 6 journals in 2008. It is now managed by the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka and hosted by]u[Ubiquity, which has allowed it to grow to a total of 129 journals. It was the first JOL to be hosted by]u[Ubiquity.

2,000 issues – 18,000 articles – 150,000+ downloads from 210 countries

Journals included in SLJOL are regularly assessed against the Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS) framework, which evaluates journals against criteria based on inclusion standards set out by international journal indices and relevant organisations' publishing and editorial guidelines. For readers, they provide assurance that the journals meet an internationally recognised set of criteria at a particular level. For journal editors, the detailed feedback from the JPPS assessment helps them identify ways to improve their publishing practices and standards with a view to achieving a higher level at the next assessment.

Journals are awarded one of six categories: inactive title, new journal, no stars, one star, two stars and three stars. To qualify for a star rating, a journal must meet basic criteria for two years, after which three stars is the highest possible rating a journal can receive.

At the latest JPPS assessment, 62% of eligible journals received a star rating, with 32% of eligible journals receiving a two-star rating, showing that the majority of the SLJOL journals are already meeting international standards and continue to improve their practices and standards.

By providing a professional platform built on years of open publishing experience to host SLJOL,]u[Ubiquity contributes strongly to the attainment of these standards, and continues to support the development, readership, and reach of SLJOL journals.

With the dedicated technical support of]u[Ubiquity, the JOL presses continue to grow as their research output becomes more and more accessible and recognised.

Being hosted by]u[Ubiquity allows the content of these unique local presses to be widely indexed and available. This ensures that work from important developing regions is readily available to a global audience, and gives the journals and their authors greater visibility among the worldwide research community. As a result, readership continues to grow, and so do submissions, which now include authors from around the world.

What does the future hold for the JOL Presses? ◀.....

With their continued expansion, it is clear that there is still plenty of room for growth. Technical support and improvements from]u[Ubiquity will continue, providing these presses with the stable and reliable platform they need to continue their development. Improvements to the OJS platform will make new features available that will help them meet the same standards as their international counterparts.

The JOLS project has helped to support academic development at both national and individual levels, providing researchers with professional services and experience as well as much greater exposure.

“When I started working with the project, people commented that there was ‘no culture for reading or writing’ in these countries or regions. Looking at how many articles are submitted now, including many by post-graduates, it’s clear that this isn’t the case. The JOLs project has given people the opportunity to write and to develop their academic careers, without the difficulties and expense of trying to submit to an international journal.”

SIoux CUMMING, EDITORIAL ACCOUNT MANAGER,]U[UBIQUITY

At]u[Ubiquity, we are delighted to see open access continuing to be a driving force for positive change, and we will continue to support the JOL presses and their future development.

OPEN ACCESS SOLUTIONS

Partner Presses

.....▶ Giving Control of Publishing Back to Academia

]u[Ubiquity can provide you with our knowledge, expertise, and support to establish your own publishing operations as a Partner Press in our]u[Ubiquity Partner Network – whether you're an academic society, university, or other institution.

We provide every Partner Press with their own fully branded, easily customised web portal in any language, where books, journals, trending content, news and announcements, and social media feeds can all be found in one place.

You will receive full assistance and advice from one of]u[Ubiquity's academic publishing experts. Your dedicated]u[Editorial Account Manager will train and assist you while setting up your press, and will continue to provide support and training on an ongoing basis with the running of the press. Marketing support will be provided through the]u[Ubiquity social and newsletter channels.

All of our Partner Presses also become members of the]u[Ubiquity Partner Network. This network provides our Partner Presses with an economy of scale through shared infrastructure and services and provides a space for our Presses to network with each other in our dedicated Community Portal. Our commitment to open access, open source, and unbundled products for our partners is enshrined in our customer charter and ensured by our Partner Advisory Board.

Presses are priced according to the size/income of their institution. We keep these costs as low as we can – well under the cost of an FTE – to keep the investment required to a minimum.

What are the benefits of becoming a]u[Ubiquity Partner Press? ◀.....

BACK OFFICE

Well-established, open source infrastructure that is maintained and constantly improved by]u[Ubiquity.

Fully dedicated editorial support for books and journals covering the entire publishing cycle from calls for papers, submissions, copyediting, peer review, and beyond.

High quality production and typesetting (including XML, PDF, EPUB).

Indexing and archiving services for discoverability and long-term preservation of your content.

Marketing support for your published content, including social media and newsletters.

FRONT OFFICE

Run by your university or institution with your own branding, with]u[Ubiquity support.

Assistance in creating resources to help acquire new content.

Support for establishing editorial workflows, provision of professional publishing assistance and advice.

Guidance on issues of ethics and good practice.

Up-to-date policy advice in a fast-changing publishing landscape to help you keep up with developments as they arise.

Journals

.....► Open Access Journals to Fit your Needs

From hosted solutions to full-service journals, we can provide our full range of publisher's expertise and infrastructure for your journals, with the flexible level of support that you need. From a simple hosted journal, run fully independently by yourself where you handle the whole publication workflow from submission to publication, to support with production and indexing, to a fully-supported journal with all services and features.

Our journals solution provides you with a range of highly flexible options consisting of our publishing expertise, editorial knowledge, latest technology and infrastructure, our attractive and feature-rich platform, and our production skills. We also provide a custom version of the open-source submission and peer-review platform Open Journal Systems (OJS), a trusted system used by over 25,000 journals worldwide. As the main community contributor to OJS, we also provide bug fixes and build extensions for OJS to improve the experience of our users and others in the publishing community.

Our journals provide a best-in-class reading experience, including full online display of articles, annotation and commenting capability, full metrics, responsive design for ease of use across different devices, a citation tool, accessibility adjustments, and much more.

Regardless of which service level you choose, every journal receives a core set of services, including full technical infrastructure, journal setup, and ongoing technical support. All of our journals are at minimum harvested and archiving by LOCKSS, receive MARC records which are disseminated to research libraries, and are registered with indexes such as Google Scholar and DOAJ to improve visibility.

Beyond these core services, there are three service levels to choose from:

1. FULL SERVICE

In addition to our core services, full-service journals receive comprehensive editorial and development support, journal management, production services, and content indexing. This allows editors to focus on submission handling to ensure that the journal runs smoothly. Full service journals have no annual fee and can be set up in either a diamond or gold model, whereby the journal is financed* via Article Processing Charges (APCs), which can be paid for by the publishing author's funder or institution, or by the journal's society.

2. PART SERVICE

As well as our core services, part-service journals are able to choose from a selection of optional services for a fully flexible, customised level of support.

3. HOSTED JOURNALS

This service level is intended for journals which need very little in the way of editorial, production, or post-production assistance. It includes only the core services of journal setup, infrastructure, and ongoing technical maintenance and support. Hosted journals pay only a setup fee and then an annual fee, with no additional costs.”

For full service journals or part service journals which opt to use our indexing services, we submit content to a wide range of indexes, both big and small. If there’s an index you’d like your content submitted to that we don’t currently work with, we’re always happy to expand our list. Additional services, such as language copyediting and transfer of back content, are available to all journal service levels.

When Open Access and Open Source mean more: a case study on the transfer of a long-established journal to]u[Ubiquity Press






In the summer of 2022, international journal “Perspectives on Medical Education” (PME) decided to take the leap and leave their large, traditional publisher with which they had a relationship of 40 years, for the smaller, open access, and open source-based UK publisher]u[Ubiquity Press. Almost a half year later, Erik Driessen (Editor-in-Chief) and Lauren Maggio (Deputy Editor-in-Chief)

share their experience of transferring publishers in the hope that their insight will prove valuable to other journals hoping to do the same.

Uprooting a journal and changing publishers is no small feat, especially when you’ve been publishing for as long and on such a scale as *PME*. Founded in 1982 by the Netherlands Association of Medical Education (NVMO), *PME* received 941 submissions in 2021 alone, and as of 2022 has an impact factor of 4.113 and a five year impact factor of 4.086.

Until 2012, *PME* was a Dutch-language journal named the *Netherlands Journal of Medical Education*. From its inception, the journal sought to fuel innovation in its research area by standing at the intersection of education research and clinical education, encouraging collaboration between the two fields. It was in this spirit that in 2012 the journal became *PME* – an English-language journal that could appeal to a wider audience of researchers and readers. A decade later, in 2022, the editors felt that it was time to join a publisher that was 100% dedicated to open access; it was this decision that ultimately led them to make the move to]u[Ubiquity Press, a fully open access publisher.

.....► What were the motivations for changing publishers?

Erik, Lauren and the entire editorial team strongly believe in the value of open access. They believe that making research as widely and equitably available as possible is crucial to the future of scholarship, particularly in the medical field. Thus, they felt it was time to align *PME* fully with the open access model, by moving to a publisher that *only* published in open access. Several other factors contributed to their decision to look for a new publisher. The editors wanted easy access to the journal's own data and analytics. They also wanted to be able to innovate, and update the journal to keep it current.

Their primary reason for moving, however, was financial. *PME* was previously a diamond journal, meaning the article charges levied by the publisher were paid by the NVMO. Due to these charges being high, and the inevitable limits on NVMO's funding, the editors were very limited in the amount of papers they could accept, meaning that they had a 95% rejection rate. The editors were keen to switch to an author-facing article processing charge (APC) funding model, and therefore wanted to move to a publisher that could offer lower APCs, in order to make space for article acceptances whilst keeping publishing attainable for authors.

Why]u[Ubiquity Press?

Openness Alignment

]u[Ubiquity hit all of the key points that *PME*'s editors were looking for in a new

publisher. Firstly, the editors saw an alignment between]u[Ubiquity's open access values and their own vision for the future of both *PME* and academic publishing in general. From the very start, it was clear that]u[Ubiquity was 100% dedicated not only to open access, open data and open source infrastructure, but to open scholarship in general. Moreover, the fact that]u[Ubiquity uses open source software to underpin all their core services, and actively contributes to the open source community, also demonstrated that this truly was a publisher that fostered openness in all aspects.

Transparency, time and cost efficiency

This sense of openness fed into the practical proceedings of the transfer. Lauren noted that]u[Ubiquity's transparency around costs and processes was a decisive factor in the selection process; alongside providing a full breakdown of costs for the editors,]u[Ubiquity were also able to halve the APCs from the previous publisher, a prospect that was very attractive to the editors.

Moreover,]u[Ubiquity took the time to explain how the practical workflows on the transfer would take place, and how long they would take. This quoted time frame was notably shorter than any of the other publishers under consideration, and this ability to be agile and efficient was something that the editors were excited by. The relatively small size of]u[Ubiquity allowed for it to be reactive and work to shorter time frames than *PME* were used to, one of the main problems they faced at their previous publisher being that its large size meant it was often slow to act.

]u[Ubiquity's Expertise

]u[Ubiquity was a name that had come recommended to *PME* by others within the scholarly community. Both Erik and Lauren liked the idea that]u[Ubiquity was founded by scholars, and that it continues to be run by a team that includes many members with a research background. This element really came through in the work of Imogen Clarke, *PME's* new editorial manager at]u[Ubiquity. Her research background in combination with her extensive publishing expertise gave her a greater understanding of how both sides of the publishing process work in order to perfectly customise the platform according to *PME's* needs.

Ultimately, both Erik and Lauren agreed that]u[Ubiquity had one very important thing: the human factor. From their very first meetings, the responsiveness, integrity and honesty of the team members they spoke to solidified that]u[Ubiquity was the right publisher for *PME*.

What were the challenges faced?

Changing submission platforms

The editors were under no illusions that changing publishers wasn't going to require a significant amount of extra work, along with a few challenges. They opted to change workflow systems, moving from Editorial Manager (EM) to Open Journal Systems (OJS) – though]u[Ubiquity was flexible, and offered them the option of remaining on EM, the full breakdown of costs proved this would be far less cost effective.]u[Ubiquity also offered the editors the chance to trial OJS before committing to it, which allowed the editors to get a feel for

the new system and confirm that it was the best option for them.

Moving between the two systems required an adjustment period for the editors, getting used to small changes such as differences in vocabulary (getting used to the term 'reject' instead of decline, for example). Beyond these minor changes,]u[Ubiquity also had to adjust for *PME's* specific workflow to be incorporated into the OJS system. Because the journal receives a lot of submissions (~1,000 per year) and has always been forced to reject a high percentage of papers, there are multiple editorial stages, with and without review.

Additionally, it was important to the Editor-in-Chief that the Deputy and Associate Editors weren't going to be burdened with administrative tasks, and could instead focus on applying their expertise to assess submissions. Together with their dedicated]u[Ubiquity editorial account manager, *PME's* editorial team had to work out how to best adapt the system for this purpose – OJS being quite customisable was a real benefit here, as it meant that the journal's requirements could be met.

The addition of a dedicated Managing Editor to the *PME* team, arranged by]u[Ubiquity, was also a huge help to support the ongoing activities of the journal. Overall, the transition was far smoother than the editors were expecting, thanks to the efficiency, support and flexibility of the]u[Ubiquity team.

A new business model for the journal

The process of moving to a new funding

model was another challenge that the editors had anticipated. One of *PME*'s main motivations for changing publishers was to be able to accept a greater number of high-quality article submissions. Moving to]u[Ubiquity allowed *PME* to halve the journal's APCs; however, this required moving from a Diamond Open Access model to an author-facing funding model, where APCs were no longer fully subsidised by NVMO and instead had to be paid by the author, their institution or funder. The editors anticipated that this decision could potentially cause disagreement within their own scholarly community, as at first glance it appears to be prohibitive for authors.

Both Erik and Lauren believed that there is a general need for greater education and transparency within the scholarly community surrounding how the APC model works and why it is sustainable. Professional, high quality publishing always requires money and is never truly without costs. Often, these costs aren't visible to the public, especially within the Diamond model where the APCs are immediately subsidised and therefore "hidden" from authors. Yet, when these subsidised APCs are so high, and are being funded from one source (which will, inevitably, be limited by a budget), the model can become restrictive – such was the case for *PME*.

Therefore, changing funding models seemed the best option to help relieve some of these restrictions, make space for more submission acceptances, and allow the journal to grow moving forwards. Once again, the editors found this challenge to be less difficult than they anticipated; they found the majority of their scholarly

community receptive to hearing their reasoning for changing *PME*'s funding model, and ultimately encouraging of the decision.

How did]u[Ubiquity perform?

Efficiency and flexibility

The transfer of such a significantly sized journal with an extensive back catalogue was never going to be an overnight process. However, *PME*'s editors were impressed with]u[Ubiquity's efficiency and agility in the transfer process, and that]u[Ubiquity were able to live up to the shorter transfer timeline that had impressed the editors in their initial conversations. This was a quality that was aided by their close-knit, communicative team. Lauren highlighted once again that]u[Ubiquity was always quick to respond to any queries or questions and willing to go the extra mile; for instance, by sourcing the new Managing Editor for the journal, something that is not standard to]u[Ubiquity's journal service.

Excellent communication

Alongside receiving excellent ongoing communication from]u[Ubiquity throughout the transfer process, the communication between]u[Ubiquity and *PME*'s previous publisher was also smooth, the two publishers working together efficiently to handle all of the behind-the-scenes processes.]u[Ubiquity provided all the necessary documentation, along with clear instructions for the editors, meaning they simply had to fill in and return the relevant paperwork.]u[Ubiquity also took care of matters such as indexing, easing the transfer workload for the editorial

team and allowing them to focus on other tasks such as improving the journal itself.

PME officially transferred to]u[Ubiquity Press on the 11th October, with the back content transfer being completed shortly after. Submission rates remained healthy throughout, with the journal receiving 64 submissions from 8th October to 8th November – the editors are confident that they will continue to grow throughout 2023 and beyond.

What are the lessons learnt, and what advice would the editors offer?

Practical considerations

Erik and Lauren both agree that before making the decision to change publishers, there are a number of practical issues that a journal's editorial team should consider.

Firstly, journal editors should consider that depending on who owns the journal, a full transfer may be more or less difficult, potentially even impossible. As *PME* was (and still is) owned by NVMO, the journal's back content was able to be migrated fairly easily, something which may not be possible if a journal is publisher owned. This is something that]u[Ubiquity Press guards against, using open, non-proprietary standards for all its content, and making all article XML compliant with the Journal Archiving Tag Suite (JATS) schema.]u[Ubiquity Press also adheres to the NISO Transfer Code of Practice, ensuring that if a journal transfers publishers, all librarians, editors and other publishers will be treated fairly in the process. Both of these factors guarantee that]u[Ubiquity Press journals

can easily transfer in their entirety to an alternate publisher, should they wish to do so.

Secondly, journal editors should keep in mind that moving publishers will require some changes in workflows and systems, and should factor this adjustment period into their transfer timeline. Erik highlighted the need to dedicate time to making sure all editors are comfortable adjusting to any new systems or processes- such as the move from EM to OJS in *PME's* case- and to accept that a slight slowdown in the workflow in this period is inevitable.

Thirdly, editorial synchronicity is important, and the journal's editorial team should make sure they have a good process for working together. Moving publishers is a hugely collaborative process; both Erik and Lauren agreed that part of what made the move so successful from *PME's* end was their ability to work effectively together, and recommended that lead editors of journals looking to move ensure their team is able to work together productively.

Know what you want

Prior to beginning their search for a new publisher, the editors made sure to identify exactly *why* they wanted to move, what they wanted in a new publisher and what the journal's non-negotiables were. Establishing the core values of *PME* and the direction the journal wanted to move in were what eventually allowed the editors to identify]u[Ubiquity Press as the right publisher for them. Lauren recommended that editors really take the time to discuss and reach consensus on a clear vision for their journal, so as to make the selection process both easier, and the move overall

more beneficial. After all, no journal wants to change publishers, only to find in a year or two that they made the wrong decision!

Take the opportunity to innovate and improve

The process of taking the time to evaluate *PME* was not only crucial to selecting a new publisher, but also offered a unique opportunity for the editors to pause, take stock of the journal and reorient its future. As the history of *PME* shows, constant innovation is at the very heart of the

journal's ethos, and one of the reasons it has been so enduringly successful – naturally, then, the editors seized the move as an opportunity to improve *PME*. On a practical level, this included tasks such as redesigning their submission templates, and generally improving the journal itself. Though all of this took time and energy, both Erik and Lauren would encourage other journals to consider a change of publisher as an exciting opportunity for innovation and improvement.

.....▶ **Closing thoughts**

Looking to the future, Erik and Lauren are excited about *PME*'s future at]u[Ubiquity Press, and about a future that is more closely aligned with the journal's values. They hope that the years to come will see more journals, particularly larger and well-established ones, take the leap to full open access, and that their experience will demonstrate that it is not only possible, but necessary to the future of research.

Books

High-quality Open Access publishing with fair pricing

]u[Ubiquity has published over 3,000 open access books so far. It offers a full range of competitively priced publishing services for books depending on requirements, from simple online hosting through to full editorial support, production, and post-production services, including print-on-demand for hard copies.

All books are fully peer reviewed and published as open access, with a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) or Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) licence.

Open access, visibility and impact being key, all books are immediately free to read online and free to download. Books are also distributed from key sites such as Open Access Publishing in European Networks (OAPEN), the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and Google Books, and are widely indexed, including in OCLC Worldcat.

Because we recognise that authors benefit from having their work disseminated as quickly as possible. Once a book has passed peer review and final copy has been supplied,]u[Ubiquity undertakes to publish the book as quickly as possible (usually within 2-4 months, depending on extent and complexity). Once final proofs are approved, books go online immediately, and are available in print within one week.

Books are priced on a case-by-case basis, according to the wide range of options available to choose from. Our book options include:

- **Abstracting and indexing**
- **Anti-plagiarism checks**
- **Chapter-by-chapter publishing**
- **Copyediting services**
- **EPUB, MOBI and XML formats**
- **Index creation**
- **PDF typesetting**
- **Print services**
- **Streaming/interactive/data media inclusion**
- **Full metrics including citations**

With further flexibility built into many of these options, we're able to provide a fully tailored book publishing package to suit your needs.

Repositories

.....▶ **A Cost-Effective, Next-Generation Institutional Repository Platform**

]u[Ubiquity Repositories are cloud hosted and built on open infrastructure, providing a professional, reliable, and cost-effective solution without vendor lock-in. Suitable for any size of institution or group of institutions with multi-tenancy, they provide high-quality hosting of research, data, teaching or historical materials and collections, or any other intellectual output.

Infrastructure and Technology

]u[Ubiquity Repositories are fully cloud-hosted for a highly reliable, scalable, and secure service, with zero IT requirements on the part of the institution. The open source foundation of the repository reduces your lock-in, enabling you to easily transfer to another vendor or move to self hosting in future.

Administration and Support

Providing personalised, timely, and high quality support is a top priority for us, which is why all repository customers are assigned a dedicated partner manager at]u[Ubiquity, who'll manage the setup of the system and then act as the main point of contact for ongoing support. A core principle of the platform is that it should be as self-service and easy-to-use as possible, to allow you full control over your repository.

User Interface and Branding

]u[Ubiquity Repositories include a clean front-end design to showcase cutting-edge research and enhance the reputation of your institution and authors. The self-customisable user interface allows you to manage the repository appearance and content, while the]u[Ubiquity team is able to work with you on the design of its user interface. All of our repositories are localisation- and mobile-ready, to allow them to be available in any language on any device.

Content Organisation

Repositories can showcase just one kind of output or the entire research lifecycle, with detailed metadata and appropriate integrations for all work types. They can support articles, books, reports, theses and dissertations, datasets, images, multimedia items, and more. Additional work types such as software, preprints or Open Education Resources can be added on request during or after setup so that we can provide a repository that suits your needs.

Discoverability

Our repository solution ensures that repository content is easy to search and easy to find, both within the repository and externally, and all major file types are full-text indexed to improve discoverability and searchability. Our repositories are highly optimised for indexing on Google Scholar and other search engines, and the whole platform is regularly tested with Google SEO checking tools.

Usage Metrics

Our repositories use the OPERAS Metrics system, an open, community-driven alternative to proprietary systems used elsewhere, of which]u[Ubiquity is the lead technology partner. Views and downloads are provided from a range of locations, and citations, tweets and Wikipedia mentions are given for all items with DOIs.

Interoperability

]u[Ubiquity Repositories are built from the ground up to enable the easy transfer and mapping of metadata to other systems. The core metadata of the repositories is based on the Portland Common Data Model (PCDM), designed for interoperability. It is based on open, community controlled schemas, ontologies, and controlled vocabularies, with no proprietary elements, and exported in simple open CSV. All repository content can be harvested by external systems via OAI-PMH, and a REST API is provided with configurable authentication.

Authentication

Standard access is via system accounts using username or email and a password, with the ability to identify institutional users by email address stems. Authentication via Single Sign On systems (e.g. Shibboleth, OpenAthens, LDAP) and IP addresses can be implemented during setup.

Accessibility

Accessibility is a high priority for the platform, which meets standards such as WCAG 2. Audits are performed annually.

Preservation

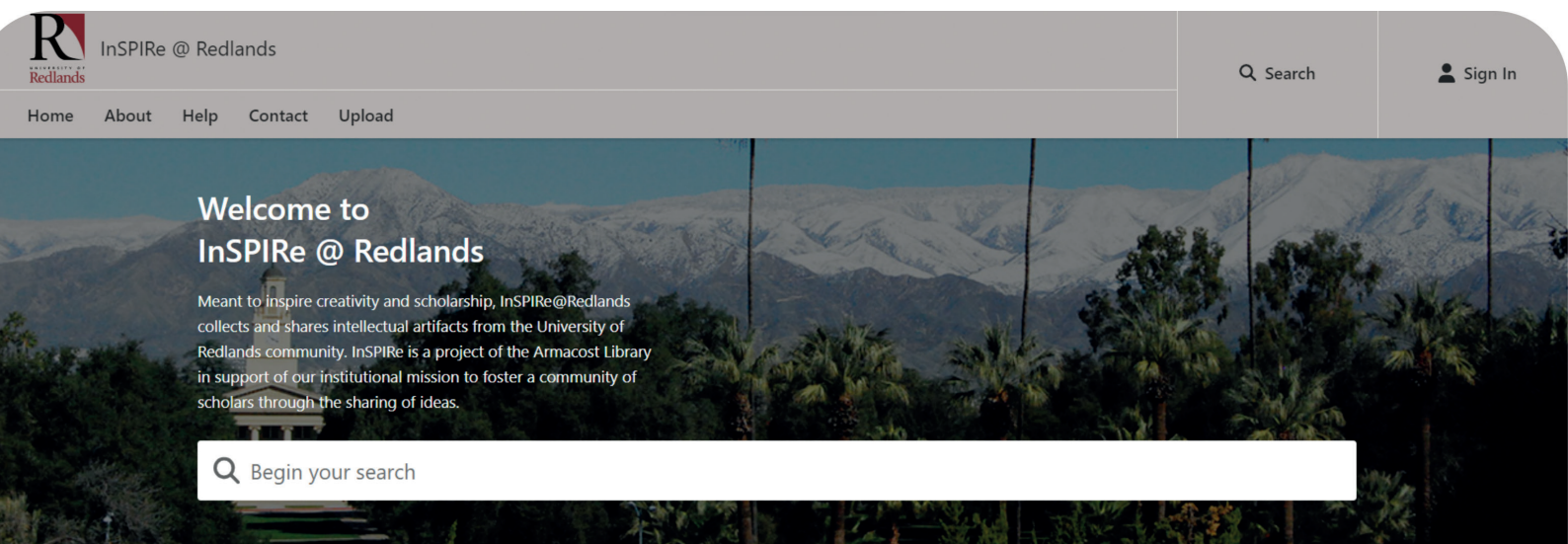
All cloud components and data are automatically copied to backup on a daily basis. Backups can be delivered to customers on a scheduled basis if requested. Customers can also self archive all metadata and files at any time.

Alignment with Community Initiatives

In line with our core values, we have worked to ensure that]u[Ubiquity Repositories are aligned with open access and open source initiatives, including the COAR Priorities, FAIR Data Compliance and Plan S Criteria.

A Successful Repository Migration from Digital Commons to]u[Ubiquity: University of Redlands Case Study

The University of Redlands migrated their InSPIRe@Redlands repository and Journal of Computer Science from Elsevier's bepress Digital Commons platform to]u[Ubiquity Repositories in July 2021. Created to provide an alternative to Digital Commons,]u[Ubiquity was able to provide feature parity and an improved repository experience.



Featured Collections

[View all collections >](#)

COLLECTION

Proudian Interdisciplinary Honors Program, Senior Honors Theses

The Proudian Interdisciplinary Honors Program brings exceptional students together with some of the University's strongest faculty for a challenging and rewarding educational experience. The Proudian Program is designed for up to twelve talented students in each graduating class who wish to explo...

COLLECTION

Doctoral Dissertations (20th Century)

This is a collection of doctoral dissertations that were deposited with the Armacost Library at the University of Redlands and later digitized.

We spoke with Paige Mann, Redland's Scholarly Communications Librarian, in July 2021, and asked her about the decisions behind choosing ju[Ubiquity.

“Ubiquity really understands library perspectives and values.”

PAIGE MANN, REDLAND'S SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS LIBRARIAN

Why did you choose ju[Ubiquity Repositories?

Cost

ju[Ubiquity was able to offer a customisable package that didn't require a large investment. The money we saved can now be invested in other open initiatives.

Perspective

ju[Ubiquity really understands library perspectives and values, especially openness and the importance of engaging stakeholders outside the library (students, faculty, and other researchers).

Forward-thinking

The responsiveness of ju[Ubiquity and its staff, their proactive and innovative approach, enable us to plan for the future growth of our institutional repository.

Hosted Open Source

We love the open source community. But we simply don't have the staff to develop and support our own repository infrastructure. ju[Ubiquity Repositories allows us to invest in an open source project while maintaining the full support of a hosted service.

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