

LIBRARIA

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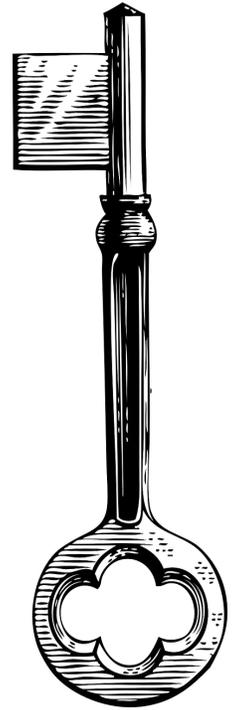
*A cooperative approach to scholarly
publishing in the social sciences*

“What we need now is a model for reorganizing the economy and governance of scholarly publishing, a model with open access values at its core, with a concern for greater equality, accountability, and global participation in this access across the disciplines.”

Alberto Corsín Jiménez, John Willinsky,
Dominic Boyer, Giovanni da Col and Alex Golub

WHAT IS LIBRARIA?

LIBRARIA is a collective of journals and learned societies in anthropology, archaeology, and neighboring fields, which have teamed with the Public Knowledge Project and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) to develop cooperative alternatives to the existing ecology of academic publishing.



WHO IS INVOLVED?

The following organizations are members of the initiative:

- European Association of Social Anthropologists
- European Association of Archaeologists
- Wenner-Gren Foundation
- Society for Cultural Anthropology
- Society for the Anthropology of Work
- Public Knowledge Project
- *Valuation Studies*
- *Limn*
- *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Anthropology*

The following organizations are acting as observers:

- Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
- HAU Network of Ethnographic Theory
- Canadian Anthropology Society
- *Critique of Anthropology*
- *Ethnography*

“It is surely time to find a legal, scalable, and equitable means of moving beyond the halfway measures intended to protect a subscription market that no longer serves library nor researcher.”

John Willinsky,
Public Knowledge
Project

WHO RUNS IT?

The Governing Council is the governing body of Libraria and all member organizations are eligible for a seat on it.

An Executive Committee has been appointed by the Governing Council to oversee Libraria's operations and consists of:

- Kirsten Bell, University of Roehampton
- Dominic Boyer, Rice University
- Alberto Corsín Jiménez, Spanish National Research Council
- Christopher Kelty, UCLA
- Marcel LaFlamme, Rice University
- John Willinsky, Stanford University

WHAT MAKES IT INNOVATIVE?

Libraria does not rely on article processing charges (APCs), which are susceptible to the same arbitrary increases as subscriptions and which threaten to reinscribe inequalities between rich and poor institutions. Instead, library partners sponsor open access to member publications for all, while helping to decide how their investments are spent in the context of increased transparency: no more nondisclosure agreements that keep pricing a secret. Our focus on flipping established journals that are already central to their disciplines means that we provide continuity with the editorial legacy of these publications and ensure that scholars do not need to choose between publishing open access and publishing in titles that hiring and tenure committees know and value.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The subscription fees that libraries are currently paying to access member journals will be directed to the cooperative in order to support the journals in moving open access. Thus, this model is intended to be *expense neutral* for libraries and *revenue neutral* for journals. It is ultimately anticipated that the pooling of resources in the cooperative will streamline journal costs, enabling Libraria to cover the production expenses of a variety of subscription and open access journals.

For example, based on our financial modeling, we estimate that ongoing library support in the amount of \$2,589, which corresponds to the current subscription costs of the four subscription-based anthropology and archaeology journals within Libraria, would cover the production costs for these journals as well as three additional open access journals (*Cultural Anthropology*, *Limn*, *Valuation Studies*), if approximately 350 libraries were involved in Libraria.



Journal	Publisher	Subscription cost
Anthropology of Work Review	Wiley-Blackwell	\$74
European Journal of Archaeology	Taylor & Francis	\$1,124
Social Anthropology	Wiley-Blackwell	\$587
Current Anthropology	University of Chicago Press	\$804

Total = \$2,589

\$2,589 X 350 libraries = \$906,150 revenue

FAQs

As a society journal we are concerned about how the society's revenues may be impacted joining Libraria. Have you factored these considerations into the model?

The cooperative model is intended to be revenue neutral for journals, which means that journals will continue to receive the library subscription funds they presently receive. Society royalties of 20% have been factored into our financial modelling.

How will allocations for journals be determined?

Our financial modeling is based on allocating funds to journals on a per-article basis (i.e., based on the volume of articles the journal publishes), which is the standard measure used in other collaborative open access initiatives such as SCOAP³. However, journal allocations will ultimately be determined by the members of Libraria via a deliberative process.

At present, our publisher entirely manages the production of and subscriptions for our journal. Does the cooperative model mean that we would have to manage them ourselves?

Some journals may wish to retain their present publisher, which they would be free to do if their publisher is amenable. For those journals that part ways with their current publisher, there are a variety of potential options for managing production, distribution, subscription management, etc. For example, Libraria might decide to employ the services of an existing publisher; or a stable of freelance editors, designers and marketers might be hired to service Libraria journals. Ultimately, this will be collaboratively determined by members themselves.

If we sign an expression of interest with Libraria, what exactly are we committing to?

EOIs are for a two-year period, and express a good-faith commitment to exploring the viability of a cooperative publishing model. However, if you decide that the cooperative model is not right for your journal, you are free to withdraw. By signing an expression of interest you are not committing yourself to a move to open access – all members will continue with their current

publishing arrangements until they are ready to make the change. If you are not willing to sign an expression of interest, consider becoming an ‘observer’ instead, which signals your general interest in the initiative and enables you to stay abreast of new developments.

What guarantee do journals have that libraries are willing to make a long-term commitment to continuing to pay their subscription fees?

Although free-riding is a potential danger, we have seen little evidence of this in other collaborative initiatives of this type, such as SCOAP³ – a sponsoring consortium for open access publishing in particle physics. No libraries have pulled out of the initiative and it has continued to grow since its inception in 2014, with 3,000 current library members.

We are happy with our current manuscript submission platform. If we shift to Libraria will we need to change to an open-source system like OJS?

Although our financial modeling is based on migrating to an open source publishing platform like OJS, journals would be free to remain with their current manuscript submission system if they preferred, unless it was a proprietary system owned by their publisher.

We are committed to print. Do we have to give that up if we join Libraria?

Libraria’s financial modeling is based on the assumption that journals would be distributed electronically, given the growing move away from print-based scholarly periodicals. However, if particular journals wished to retain print copies, print-on-demand services could be employed by the co-op.

**Go to <http://libraria.cc/>
to learn more**

