Public Knowledge Project: a partnership in scholarly publishing

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PKP history

• 1998: Began as a research project of Dr. John Willinsky at University of British Columbia

• First development project was the creation of Open Journal Systems

• Wanted to demonstrate the ability to create an affordable, decentralized, open access scholarly publishing ecosystem

• 2005: Software development management moved to Simon Fraser University Library
Research & Funding

• Research continues to be integral to PKP; J. Willinsky directs the project from Stanford and SFU

• Grand funding in Canada and internationally, including:
  • Canada Foundation for Innovation
  • Laura & John Arnold Foundation
  • MacArthur Foundation
  • Sloan Foundation
  • SPARC
  • Mellon Foundation
  • Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation)… & more
Location of journals using Open Journal Systems

East Asia & Pacific: 2,481
Europe & Central Asia: 2,448
Latin America & Caribbean: 2,849
Middle East & North Africa: 131
North America: 836
South Asia: 285
Sub-Saharan Africa: 334
Total: 9,364
Research agenda

• Current projects
  ➢ copyright reform; publishing cooperatives; alternative metrics; social media impact; XML publishing innovations; Latin American publishing initiatives

• Current CFI funding recognizes PKP and its research partner Erudit, as a national “Major Scientific Initiative” in Canada, funded alongside projects such as SNOLAB, the CCGS Amundsen Arctic Research icebreaker, and the Canadian Light Source synchrotron
Partnerships

• With other scholarly communication organizations
  • Crossref, ORCID, Hypothesis, Erudit, etc.

• With library organizations
  • Library Publishing Coalition, SPARC, OCUL, COPPUL

• With individual libraries
  • Free University of Berlin, University of Pittsburgh, University of British Columbia, University of Alberta
Open source

• Open source and decentralized by nature
• Allows for local control of publishing infrastructure
• Permits greater diversity and equity in publishing practices
• Invites active participation in the development and direction of the software by users and community members
Current initiatives

• Continuous maintenance & upgrading
• Technical support
• Documentation
• Training
• User group meetings
• Community development
Governance

- Community-based, non-profit, academy-led
  - Advisory Committee
  - Technical Committee
  - Members Committee

- Provides transparency, accountability, broad participation
PKP & ARL: what’s the connection?

• Working to create a sustainable open access publishing ecosystem, based on collaboration between libraries, funders, researchers, and publishing service providers

• Builds innovative, open source tools that allow libraries to develop their own publishing infrastructure and publishing programs

• Widespread adoption of OJS
PKP invites ARL members to get involved in our open source software development and our research projects.

www.pkp.sfu.ca

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