

PKP | PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

# 2014 Annual Report



Take control of your publishing

## INTRODUCTION

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**Gwen Bird**

Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, Simon Fraser University

As Simon Fraser University's new Dean of Libraries, it has been a pleasure to become more closely acquainted with PKP and its many initiatives in 2014. The relationship between the SFU Library and PKP is almost 10 years old and PKP has grown tremendously during that period. Similarly, the Library's involvement in a wide range of local services and support for scholarly publishing and communication has also evolved significantly. So many of our local initiatives intersect in interesting ways with PKP.

*"It is a very rewarding and mutually beneficial relationship for both parties."*

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It is a very rewarding and mutually beneficial relationship for both parties to have PKP's software and its services to a large international community embedded in an academic library that is also a very committed user of OJS and other PKP software. John Willinsky has long been an enthusiastic advocate on the role that academic libraries can play in supporting scholarly publishing initiatives. The enduring relationship that has developed between SFU Library and PKP is a unique and compelling testimony to John's vision, and the work of many individuals who have worked on that vision over the years.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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### **John Willinsky**

Director, Public Knowledge Project, Khosla Family Professor of Education, Stanford University, Professor (Part-Time) Publishing Studies, SFU, and Distinguished Scholar in Residence, SFU Library

The year had a number of highlights for PKP, but the one involving the most people from around the world gathering at one site was our first venture in running a MOOC on the theme of Open Knowledge: Changing the Course of Learning. Directed brilliantly by Kevin Stranack in collaboration with Lauren Maggio, the MOOC was conducted in Spanish and English with instructors in Canada, US, Mexico, and Ghana. We had 10,000 enrol and over 60,000 visitors. The thirteen-week MOOC represented a new direction for PKP's education program, embracing the whole of the open movement, from open educational resources to open data.

*"PKP continues to look for ways to extend the right to know what is known."*



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At the same time that we were exploring this new educational phenomenon, we continued to re-release upgraded versions of our software, as well as develop new technologies dedicated to scholarly communication. These new ventures include:

1. Our XML project, which seeks to automate as much as possible article mark-up for reference linking, layout and design, and copyediting purposes
2. A Dataverse collaboration that enables OJS journals to provide a citable data repository for their articles
3. An adaption of OJS for a dedicated open access book review journal that support reviewers' selection of books and posting of reviews for the American Anthropological Association.

That's not the half of it for 2014, but it does provide an indication of the different ways in which PKP continues to look for ways to extend the right to know what is known.

## ADVISORY CHAIR'S REPORT

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**Timothy Deliyannides**

Director, Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing and Head, Information Technology, University of Pittsburgh

In early 2014, PKP received a report it had commissioned on PKP's Governance and Organization. Lynn Copeland, the former Dean of Libraries for the SFU Library, undertook an extensive review of PKP's organizational development during the past three years and provided a number of very useful recommendations. Overall, the report indicated that PKP has accomplished much in the area of community engagement, but also contained suggestions on ways to expand this activity. In terms of general governance, the report concluded that the current administrative support arrangement that PKP enjoys through SFU was working well and that there were no compelling reasons to accelerate a transition to a more independent entity. Although this may be an eventual outcome as PKP continues to evolve as an organization, the focus for the next few years will be on refining PKP's current committees and relationships with its many community partners. One area that received attention during the past year was a review of the formal relationships between PKP and its major development partners -- the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL); the University of British Columbia Library; and the University Library System, University of Pittsburgh. As part of renewing the Memorandum of Understanding with each partner, activities during the past three years were reviewed and it was determined that a more explicit outline of specific activities for each year in future MOUs would be useful.

## MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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2014 was PKP's third full year of our sustainability strategy that bridges three major funding areas -- community sponsorships, grant funding, and revenue generation activities such as PKP's Publishing Services. All of the accomplishments described elsewhere in this annual report are testimony to the fact we're still thriving and continuing to move forward on so many fronts. I want to thank all of our community members who continue to provide financial and all sorts of in-kind support for PKP. I especially want to acknowledge the SFU Library who continues to generously provide a "home base" and considerable administrative support for PKP. We even graduated to an office space with a window this past year. (OK, the window faces onto a hallway but it provides a work and meeting space for our local PKP team members.) Grant funding wasn't as successful in 2014 as we would have liked but it also reinforced the importance of a sustainability plan that isn't completely reliant on one primary funding source. The real highlight is the continued growth of PKP's Publishing Services. It is a great example of a service that is mutually beneficial to all parties -- PKP is providing a low-cost hosting service to many OJS journals, and in turn those journals are supporting the ongoing development of PKP's software by choosing us as their service provider. It is also allowing PKP to develop a more business like approach to all our activities and helps to ensure we will continue to improve and make freely available PKP's open source software.



**Brian Owen**

Managing Director, Public Knowledge Project and Associate University Librarian, Library Technology Services & Special Collections, Simon Fraser University

## RESEARCH

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2014 saw the continued development of PKP's research projects, allowing us to build a set of new services and functionality that will serve to advance the publishing programs of the global PKP community.

### SMARTER SCHOLARLY TEXTS FOR CROSS-PLATFORM PUBLISHING, TEXT-MINING, AND INDEXING

The Smarter Scholarly Texts project completed its second funding round in 2014. Work continued on from 2013 in collaboration with Martin Eve of the Open Library of the Humanities, progressively improving the output of the meTypeset parsing library. A planned rewrite of our XML processing server framework was also completed in the first half of 2014, properly modularizing the code and making it substantially easier to maintain and add additional functionality to our existing stack. We continued to develop our partnership with Heidelberg University, providing feedback to them for their planned WYSIWYG editor, and began a new collaboration with the Centre for Open Science in Poland in order to adapt their CERMINE parsing library to be used alongside meTypeset in our stack. A decision was made to delay an official release announcement for the parsing service and OJS integration until parsing quality improves, but the

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usage logs on our public demonstration instance attest that interest, at least for experimental purposes, remains high. A third funding round begins in mid-2015.

## ARTICLE-LEVEL METRICS

The Article Level Metrics service continued as a pilot project throughout 2014, signing on over 20 publishers and collecting metrics for over 150,000 articles. As a result, even with only a handful of publishers, the PKP team's installation of PLOS' ALM tool (now named 'Lagotto') now collects metrics on more articles than any publisher. Interest in the service has exceeded expectations, with more than 200 journals/publishers expressing interest.

PKP has also been an active member of the Article Level Metrics and altmetrics communities, participating in the 2014 edition of the ALM Workshop, hosted by PLOS in San Francisco, CA and a conference presentation at the Altmetrics14 Workshop during the Web Science Conference in Bloomington, IN. PKP also served as a member of a CrossRef's working group charged with exploring how ALMs could be provided on a large scale.

## RESEARCH

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### DATAVERSE / OJS INTEGRATION

2014 was a milestone year for the Dataverse / OJS Integration; the Dataverse plugin that was developed over the course of this work was officially released in February 2014, and shipped with OJS 2.4.4, with additional bugfixes and user feedback incorporated into OJS 2.4.5. A full presentation on this work was delivered at the 2014 International Digital Curation Conference in San Francisco, and was later published in the *International Journal of Data Curation*. Due in part to our community outreach, several large-scale OJS sites have committed to using the plugin, among them Scholars Portal and Ubiquity Press. The collaboration continued through the end of the year in order to complete one final round of bug fixes and reporting, but for the most part the work was completed in 2014, with all the necessary code for the integration being merged upstream in both projects and documentation having been produced. It was a great success.

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## SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION IN LATIN AMERICA

This year was the final year of the multi-year IDRC-funded project *Quality in the Open Scholarly Communication of Latin America*. This year saw the conclusion of several small-grants funded through the project, whose research outputs were edited and compiled into an edited volume due to be published in 2015 by CLACSO.

PKP also coordinated a project on Open Access indicators in developing regions in collaboration with CLACSO (Argentina) and funded by UNESCO. This project culminated in a report on OA indicators and in an edited volume edited by Juan Pablo Alperin, Gustavo Fischman, and Dominique Babini, with contribution from several Latin American initiatives (SciELO, RedALyC, CLACSO) and from African Journals Online.

## SOFTWARE

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In 2014 we introduced the concept of a developer sprint, based on a two-day unconference model, with tremendous success. These events are built around developer interests, and focus on fast, achievable work with clear impact. Participants found these to be engaging, enjoyable events with a strong social component that helped bridge the distances between teams. We are eagerly anticipating our next opportunity.

In keeping with the tech community focus of the sprint events, we recognized the need to create a “home” for our developer network. This includes the creation of a developer page on the PKP website and a blog.

UI/UX (User Interface / User Experience) was our single largest area of work within the development team. We substantially changed our workflow and created a UI/UX subgroup, working UI/UX review into our code review and specification creation processes. The results of this realignment will be clearly available with the release of OJS 3.0b.



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## OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS (OJS)

In 2014 our developer emphasis for new features began to shift from OJS 2.4.x to OJS 3.0. Development work on OJS 2.4.x focused on stability, maintenance and incremental improvement, with new features at a slower rate. Nonetheless, 2014 saw the release of OJS 2.4.4 and 2.4.5, including improved CrossRef support, a LOCKSS PKP PLN plugin, Article-Level metrics, etc.

OJS 3.0, particularly UI/UX for its new user interface, continues to be our major area of work. We spent 2014 rewriting major areas of the 3.0 alpha release in preparation for OJS 3.0 beta, to be released in August 2015. We used user testing, surveys, and a new UI/UX subgroup to realign our development process and solve some complicated business problems.

## SOFTWARE

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### OPEN MONOGRAPH PRESS (OMP)

OMP 1.1.0 and 1.1.1 turned the successful but fledgling OMP into a production-ready, dependable application in 2014. The increased sharing of code between applications means that work on OJS 3.0 has automatically improved OMP and vice versa, with the benefits to software and decreased cost on the development team already visible.

Our outreach and support of OMP early adopters proved an effective strategy, with bug reports gradually giving way to feature requests and specifications as the software matured. We are particularly proud to have both high-profile and technically savvy users of OMP, both of whom are continuing to push us forward in improving the software.

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## OPEN CONFERENCE SYSTEMS (OCS)

OCS 2.3.6 continues the long-term stabilization of OCS while adding a few new features such as additional reporting data and improved presentation of single-day events. Despite the relatively small developer time allocated to OCS in 2014, it continues to receive new users and attention, suggesting it inhabits a relatively sparse position as conference software with an academic workflow.

## OPEN HARVESTER SYSTEMS (OHS)

OHS has remained substantially unchanged since 2012, when version 2.3.2 was released. As a niche application built around the uncomplicated OAI-PMH standard, its maintenance needs are limited.

## PARTNERS

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PKP's financial sustainability plan continued in 2014, based on the fee-based PKP Publishing Services (PKP|PS) and our institutional sponsorship program for research libraries and other stakeholder groups, many of which are providing PKP software as a publishing service model to their communities. Both of these efforts made significant contributions to the PKP budget and helped to ensure our ongoing activities.

### PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Development partners in 2014 included the Ontario Council of University Libraries, Stanford University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Pittsburgh. Partners made significant financial contributions to PKP as well as donated their time and energy toward helping us meet our goals; through efforts such as active leadership and participation on PKP committees, code contributions, software testing and early adoption, and more. Special thanks to the University of Pittsburgh's active participation on the PKP Support Forum, and to the University of British Columbia for their active leadership in development of the PKP Private LOCKSS Network (PLN).

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## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS

In 2014 we welcomed our first Latin American sponsors: Biteca Ltda, based in Columbia, and SciELO, based in Brazil. We also saw the addition of Consortium Érudit, a consortium of universities in Quebec, Canada; consisting of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, Université du Québec à Montréal. To ensure that organizations of different sizes and backgrounds have the chance of expressing their support for the continued development of the software they use, we further diversified the sponsorship program by adding new sponsor level: PKP Sustainers (\$1000 – \$2499). The University of Groningen Library, in the Netherlands, is the first institution welcomed at this sponsorship level. Work continued, and will continue in 2015, to more effectively reach out to our community and better demonstrate the value of sponsoring the work that benefits us all.

## PARTNERS

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### COMMUNITY-BASED COMMITTEES

All PKP sponsors are eligible to join the Members and Technical Committees, and all Development Partners participate on the Advisory Committee. PKP's Annual General Meeting was held in Vancouver, where partners and sponsors received a full account of our activities and provided counsel and advice. The program included a two-day development sprint and a series of lightning talks, where all involved had the opportunity to share their own progress and activities. Meetings of all the committees continued in 2014 and provided PKP with valuable input on our strategic direction and feedback on current projects. Special thanks to Vanessa Gabler (Pittsburgh) for chairing the Members Committee, which has been providing excellent feedback on the UI/UX work, and to Tim Deliyannides (Pittsburgh) for chairing the Advisory Committee.

## AWARDS

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PKP Director John Willinsky received the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) Innovator Award in 2014. SPARC Executive Director Heather Joseph described John as “a rare combination of visionary and pragmatic. He understood the benefit of Open Access long before most people, and was also able to build infrastructure that has been absolutely crucial to the successful advancement of Open Access journal publishing.”

PKP was also identified as a High-Impact Open Access Organization for Infrastructure by the Accelerating Science Awards Program (ASAP), sponsored by Google, PLOS, Wellcome Foundation, and others, recognizing the importance of our work in advancing open access in scholarly and scientific communication.

## SUPPORT & SERVICES

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In addition to our research and development activities in 2014, we have also made some significant advances in our support and services offerings.

### PKP PUBLISHING SERVICES (PKPIPS)

PKP|PS provides fee-based hosting, software customization, and technical support to individuals and institutions worldwide. PKP|PS continues to grow, adding over 60 new OJS, OMP or OCS instances through the year, thereby contributing significantly to the financial health of PKP.

Of particular note for 2014 was the increasing interest in and use of our services from Australia, including the addition of the Victoria University journal system; and the increased migration of entire institutional publishing initiatives to PKP|PS, including the Manchester Open Library journals and Online-Journals.org. Three journals from longstanding PKP partner Arizona State University, under the guidance of Doctor Gustavo Fischman, also migrated to PKP|PS; including Education Review, the single most prestigious educational review journal in the United States.

In addition to growing its client base, PKP|PS also focused on improving its hosting models, support services, and



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visibility overall, with the further refinement of our tiered pricing models for each PKP application, and the addition of new services for our clients, including ALM statistics (in beta). Of particular note, PKP|PS now facilitates CrossRef membership through PKP's Sponsoring Entity agreement with PILA, permitting some PKP clients, and other eligible non-client OJS users (specifically, in low-income countries) to have CrossRef membership and receive DOIs.

## PKP EDUCATION

PKP's education initiatives this year included launching two new PKP School courses, *Writing for Publication* and *Becoming a Reviewer*, with generous financial assistance from INASP and USAID, with content provided by Pippa Smart of PSP Consulting, an internationally-recognized expert in scholarly publishing.

We also created and offered our first MOOC, *Open Knowledge*, with thousands of non-credit students from around the world, and credit students from Canada, Mexico, and the United States working together to deepen their understanding of the critical issues of "openness" in modern society. The course was made possible with financial assistance from the SFU International Engagement Fund and Stanford University's Office of the Vice Provost for Online Learning.

## SUPPORT & SERVICES

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### CROSSREF

PKP and CrossRef continue to collaborate to help publishers and journals using OJS take better advantage of CrossRef services. PKP became a Sponsoring Entity of CrossRef this year, and as such can now act as a representative for OJS journals wishing to apply for CrossRef membership, and is in some cases able to waive fees. PKP also released its largest set of improvements and updates to the OJS CrossRef integration, and continues to improve its overall support for CrossRef-related services.

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## PKP PRIVATE LOCKSS NETWORK

Planning and technology development for the PKP Private LOCKSS Network (PLN) continued throughout 2014. At the end of the 1-year pilot in the fall of 2015, the PLN will be open to any journal running OJS 2.4.6 or higher, provided the journal has an ISSN and the journal manager agrees to a set of terms of use. Members of the pilot included the University of Alberta, Indiana University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Victoria, University of British Columbia, and Simon Fraser University. PKP especially acknowledges the contributions of Bronwen Sprout from the University of British Columbia, who is the PKP PLN Coordinator.

In 2014, PKP staff presented on the PKP PLN at the 1st International Digital Preservation Seminar in Brasilia, Brazil; at the Fall 2014 CNI Membership Meeting in Washington, DC; and at the 2014 Private LOCKSS Network Community Meeting in Palo Alto, California.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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.

<i><b>Revenues</b></i>	
Development Partners & Sponsors	\$159,000
SFU Library (in-kind)	\$122,668
Publishing Services	\$344,752
Grants	\$129,349
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$755,769</b>

**Expenses**

Personnel	\$809,820
Community Support Activities	\$ 30,509
Infrastructure	\$ 15,408
Administration	\$ 10,914
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$866,651 *</b>

\* Deficit offset by \$58,173 carryover from 2013/14 and use of \$39,653 remaining CFI-IOF.

## SUPPORTERS IN 2014

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We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions from all of our Development Partners, Sponsors, Funders, and supporters. Without their help, we would not have been able to achieve the accomplishments outlined in this report.

### DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (\$25,000 OR MORE)

Ontario Council of University Libraries  
 Simon Fraser University Library  
 Stanford University School of Education  
 University of British Columbia Library  
 University of Pittsburgh Library

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### PLATINUM (\$15,000)

University of Alberta Libraries  
 University of Tennessee Libraries, Knoxville

## GOLD (\$10,000)

Indiana University Libraries  
 McGill University Library  
 University of Calgary Libraries  
 University of Illinois Libraries (Chicago /  
 Urbana-Champaign)

University of Toronto Libraries (OCUL)  
 University of Victoria Libraries  
 University of Windsor Library (OCUL)  
 York University Libraries (OCUL)

## SILVER (\$5,000)

Consortium Érudit (Université de Mon-  
 tréal, Université Laval, Université du  
 Québec à Montréal)  
 Johns Hopkins University Libraries  
 University of Florida Libraries  
 University of Guelph Library (OCUL)  
 University of Manitoba Libraries  
 University of New Brunswick Libraries  
 University of Ottawa Library (OCUL)  
 University of Western Ontario Libraries  
 (OCUL)

## BRONZE (\$2,500)

Biteca Ltda.  
 Brock University Library (OCUL)  
 Carleton University Library (OCUL)  
 Dalhousie University Libraries  
 McMaster University Library (OCUL)  
 Ohio State University Libraries  
 OpenEdition  
 Queen's University Library (OCUL)  
 Texas Digital Library  
 University of Arizona Libraries  
 Wilfrid Laurier University Library (OCUL)

## PKP SUSTAINER (\$1,000 - @2,499)

University of Groningen Library

## CREDITS

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### PHOTO CREDITS

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Page 3, *John Willinsky*, courtesy Stanford University

Page 4, *Tim Deliyannides*, courtesy of OASPA <http://oaspa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Tim.jpg>

Page 5, *Brian Owen*, courtesy Simon Fraser University, the Public Knowledge Project

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