PKP

Report to the Community

2015 / 2016

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Who
We Are

The Public Knowledge Project develops free, open source software, provides services and learning opportunities, and conducts research to improve the quality and reach of scholarly publishing. We are best known for our Open Journal Systems software, currently used by close to 10,000 journals around the world.

Our research home is located at Stanford University and our operational and software development home is at the Simon Fraser University Library. We are served by active and involved Advisory, Technical, and Members Committees, comprised of volunteer community members.

PKP works closely with our community of users, strategic partners, and other researchers, publishers, editors, libraries, software developers, and organizations involved in scholarly publishing.

Reflections

Joy Johnson, VP Research, Simon Fraser University

In 2005, the SFU Library become the home base for the multi-university Public Knowledge Project, a model of excellence in scholarly communication around which an international community of practice has formed. Today, the PKP is a leading tool for the global open access movement, providing a full suite of software, services, and training for the free sharing of scholarly knowledge. Initially funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada, the PKP has taken on a life of its own as organizations and groups around the world adopt it for their own initiatives. The success of the PKP is representative both of the value that SFU and its partners place on collaboration to drive innovation, and of the dedication and leadership of individuals who comprise its core team.

Gwen Bird, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, Simon Fraser University

I recently travelled to Northern Europe as a member of a Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) delegation for a series of meetings with other academic librarians where we exchanged information on services and activities and discussed emerging trends and issues for academic libraries. As soon as I mentioned I was from the Library at Simon Fraser University, the almost invariable response was along the lines of "SFU! PKP! Great work!" Although it is always nice to receive such positive institutional recognition, it continually reminded me of the international impact that PKP and software like OJS has had on scholarly publishing and the advancement of open access. It was also a strong confirmation of the new role that academic libraries in so many parts of the world in the provision of publishing services and open access advocacy. To all members of the PKP community I want to acknowledge your efforts with the same commendation -- "Great work!"

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

I am pleased to report that the University of Alberta Libraries became a full PKP development partner during the past year. They will be working with PKP on the following areas in the coming years: UI/UX review and testing for the all new version of OJS 3.0; specific software enhancements such as DOI support; OJS journal hosting deployment strategies; and article level metrics. Alberta is a welcome addition to the PKP Advisory Committee. During the past year, the terms of reference for the PKP Members Committee were revised with two significant changes -- an expanded membership base for the committee and the introduction of co-chairs. These changes are intended to encourage a wider degree of direct participation from PKP's very large user community in a variety of PKP activities. All of these attest to the ongoing evolution and improvement of PKP's current committees and relationships with its many community partners.

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

Among the many developments that have marked the work of PKP over the last year, I draw attention to three areas that exemplify the core of our work as a "research and development" initiative. Much work has gone into a 3.0 iteration of OJS, which features not only new workflow structures, based on all that we have learned from the 2.X series, but a new integral UI/UX development process that provides a much stronger user-based starting point for this exciting new version. In something of a new direction for PKP, we have been engaged with MacArthur Foundation support, in collecting data, building financial models, conducting surveys, and setting up pilots aimed at assessing the viability of establishing open access publishing cooperatives among libraries, journals, and funders. Finally, we continue to make progress, with the support of Konica Minolta, in devising a semi-automated XML markup treatment of author manuscripts, which holds considerable promise for raising the quality of the scholarly publishing process only among OJS users but well beyond, as we explore its potential in article rendering, copyediting, and data-mining. And it has to once again be said that the progress of each of these fronts continues to benefit from and build on the lessons gained through PKP Publishing Services.

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

2015 started on a cautious financial note for PKP but quickly shifted into one of our most positive years for growth. At the beginning of the year, our grant funding prospects appeared to be very grim but within three months we were delighted to receive good news from three funding agencies: the MediaX program at Stanford renewed funding for our XML project; the Canadian Internet Registration Authority's (CIRA) Community Investment Program provided significant support for that project; and the MacArthur Foundation funded a major two-year open access publishing cooperative study. The ongoing growth of PKP's Publishing Services continued to be a major success story with total income passing the half-million dollar threshold. The number of journals signing up for hosting services and related support grew substantially during the year. As this annual report attests, PKP continues to have a very ambitious software development program while also pursuing a number of research initiatives and working closely with a very diverse and distributed user community. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the relatively small but very dedicated PKP team who consistently manage to rise to every challenge that comes their way.

Research

This past year saw the funding of new research projects as well as the continued development of existing ones, allowing us to learn more about scholarly publishing and open access and to build new services and functionality to advance the publishing programs of the global PKP community.

Open Access Scholarly Publishing Cooperatives Study

In 2015, PKP received a $460,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to fund a two-year study investigating the feasibility of scholarly publishing cooperatives as a sustainable, inclusive model for open access, and as an alternative to the APC-based approaches tried so far. Through 2015 and 2016 we have been focused on: (a) gathering financial data from journals and libraries to establish current investment levels in professional quality publishing; (b) consulting with stakeholders — research libraries, scholarly journals, scholarly societies, presses, funding agencies, and others — about perceived gains and risks of a co-op approach to open access funding, governance, and structure; and (c) developing and assessing open source co-op publishing infrastructures for running pilot studies to evaluate impact on scholarly and public quality of this approach to open access publishing. We have been pleased with the interest the cooperative concept has generated and look forward to reporting on our findings.

Learn more about the OA Cooperative Project http://oa-cooperative.org

Smarter Scholarly Texts for Cross-Platform Publishing, Text-mining, and Indexing

Several important milestones were reached in the empirical evaluation of our Smarter Scholarly Texts projects, including the creation and deployment of an automated testing framework for measuring the accuracy of our automated parsing on various document elements, and the compilation and release of a document corpus for running these tests, now available as a free resource from PKP's website for anyone wishing to duplicate our results or collaborate on this research. We also integrated multiple new modules into our parsing stack, including the ParsCit citation lookup API and the Grobid machine learning library, and began work with the Substance Consortium on a new WYSIWYG in-browser editor of National Library of Medicine JATS XML which will become the primary interface for authors and journals wanting to use our XML publishing stack in production. This project will significantly reduce the production costs to create XML, HTML, EPUB, and other publishable files and our thanks go out to Stanford's MediaX and the Canadian Internet Registration Authority for their financial support.

Understanding the Societal Impact of Research Through Social Media

Academics have been increasingly integrating online platforms and social media tools into their everyday practices. As the process of dissemination begins to take place on these public platforms, there is enormous potential to capture and analyze their digital traces. This offers, for the first time, the opportunity to study—computationally and at large scale—the processes of knowledge dissemination and co-creation between academia and the public. Taking advantage of this opportunity, this project asks: What is the nature and extent of societal impact of research that can be observed through the public's engagement with research on social media? The proposed work will be carried out over three major research phases (each approximately a year in duration): the first phase will focus on developing methodologies to identify non-academic individuals engaging with scholarly documents; in the second phase, descriptions and narratives will be collected of how these individuals engage with research beyond social media; and the third phase will combine the findings of the first two phases to develop theoretical frameworks and explore approaches to systematically measure engagement with research by non-academic audiences. The project will speak directly to the legislative and policy advances mandating public access and impact beyond the academy, and provide evidence on possible outcomes of such policies. At the same time, it will inform scholars and funding agencies around the world by providing evidence of the value of public access to research, and which dissemination strategies lead to greater public engagement.

Software

PKP continues to make great progress in addressing its long-term challenges with UI/UX with major contributions from recent hire Nate Wright. We are continuing to integrate UI/UX surveys and reviews into our development and design practices, stewarded by Kevin Stranack with the assistance of various partners, notably Freie Universität Berlin, Heidelberg University, and most recently the University of Alberta, which became a development partner this year and has generously donated time for Sonya Betz to bring her expertise and enthusiasm to organizing and running our usability testing sessions.

Open Journal Systems

PKP's top priority continues to be preparing the release of OJS 3.0. Since the beta release in August 2015 we conducted significant UI/UX testing and review, completed the final workflow rewrites deemed necessary as a result, and finalized the feature list for 3.0. We plan to release OJS 3.0 in the summer of 2016. This will be the most important release of PKP software since OJS 2.0 in 2005.

Open Monograph Press

PKP released OMP 1.2.0 in April 2016 with considerable UI/UX improvements and workflow simplification, largely resulting from testing activity based on the OJS 3.0 beta and feedback from OMP early adopters. The reader front-end design was split from the workflow back-end, and front-end templates were structured for easier and more flexible theming. The copyediting and production workflow stages, which were icon-heavy and confusing, were replaced with a more familiar and flexible threaded-email metaphor. OMP 1.2 marks an increased emphasis on reader front-end design that we hope to expand in future releases.

Open Conference Systems

PKP has not released an update to OCS since 2014; nonetheless, OCS continues to receive interest and attention e.g. on our support forum. This may reflect a continuing lack of quality conference management tools targeting the academic (peer review) audience despite the crowded conference tool marketplace. We are unlikely to dedicate attention beyond basic maintenance to OCS in the near future; however, the increased convergence of OMP and OJS made possible by the ongoing development of the shared PKP WAL (Web Application Library) may make a more modern rewrite of OCS possible without necessitating as intensive a development and maintenance commitment as was required to create OCS 2.0.

Open Harvester Systems

Two popular OJS plugins have been ported to OHS, including the Static Pages plugin and the Custom Block Manager plugin. The Static Pages plugin enables administrators to create custom pages making it easier to publish additional content to supplement archived material. The Custom Block Manager will enable administrators to add custom blocks to page sidebars to customize the look-and-feel of their OHS installation. In addition, a number of bugs have been fixed that will ensure that archive records are displayed in a consistent manner and that users can easily register archives and navigate search results.

Services

In addition to our research and software development activities, PKP is committed to building publishing services to help our community succeed in their publishing activities. When we started OJS back in 2001, we couldn't have imagined the digital publishing landscape of today and the need for infrastructure for online communities and learning, digital preservation, public identifiers, and more. We're pleased to be able to offer these services that allow our users to fully participate in 21st Century publishing.

Community Forum

The PKP Community Forum serves as the main hub of communication between our developers and the users of our software. Although it is primarily a platform for questions and answers, the forum also includes a community showcase section, where anyone using PKP software is encouraged to show off their work, a section for Feature Requests, FAQs, and announcements. We'd particularly like to thank Clinton Graham, a Systems Developer with the University of Pittsburgh's University Library System for providing leadership on the forum and jumping in with expert assistance on so many occasions.

http://forum.pkp.sfu.ca

PKP Index

Using PKP's Open Harvester System (OHS) software, the PKP Index was launched in October as a searchable database of journals, proceedings, and monographs published using OJS, OCS, and OMP. As an OAI-PMH metadata harvester, the PKP Index is intended to both showcase publishers using PKP software and to provide an opportunity for new publications to be indexed in an accessible and searchable database. Moreover, as new publishers and content are added, the PKP Index will provide researchers and public users with a multidisciplinary, international research database of open content.

Following an initial "beta" testing period, the PKP Index is now open to all publishers using OJS, OCS, or OMP who have published at least one article, proceeding, or chapter using PKP software. The PKP Index currently includes content from 350+ publishers, spanning 120,000+ records.

To register your publication(s) for inclusion in the Index, visit http://index.pkp.sfu.ca

PKP LOCKSS PLN

Through the efforts of SFU Library's Mark Jordan and UBC Library's Bronwen Sprout, in collaboration with team at LOCKSS, PKP has set up a "Private LOCKSS Network" for our community. The PKP PLN consists of nine institutional nodes (with more joining soon) that share, and when needed, repair, the data of all journals in the network. This free service allows any OJS journal to ensure their long-term digital preservation. We'd also like to thank the PKP PLN Advisory Committee for their expert advice and guidance.

According to Lars Bjørnshauge, Managing Director of DOAJ, **"The PKP PLN will have positive implications for the OJS-based journals which apply for inclusion in DOAJ and those that may wish to qualify for the DOAJ Seal. To demonstrate our support for this initiative, DOAJ will add the PKP PLN as one of the resources that is explicitly mentioned as a preservation service in our application form and criteria."**

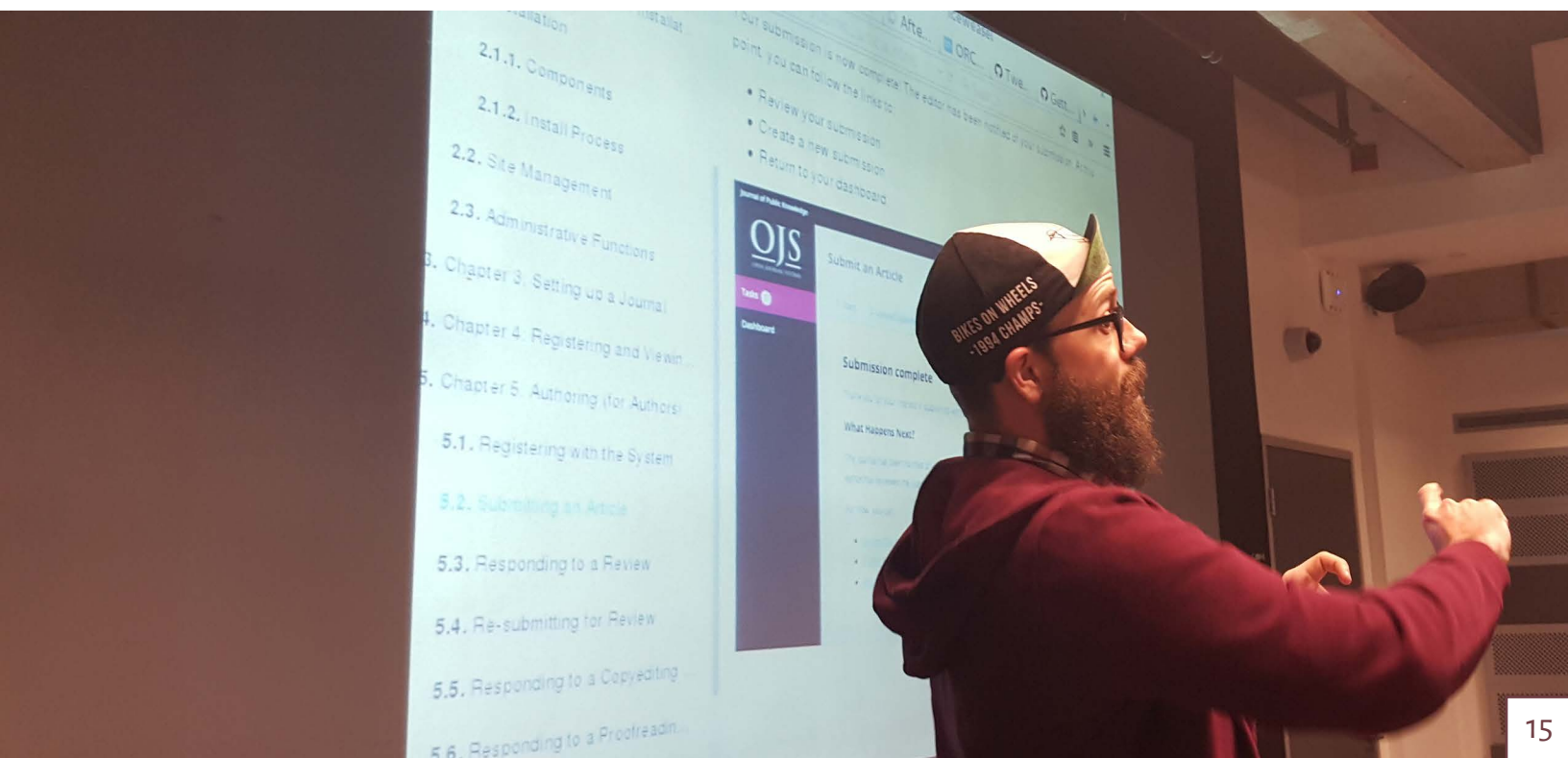**PKP PLN Advisory Committee Members**

- Lars Bjornshauge, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Sioux Cumming, International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)
- Alan Darnell, Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL)
- Geoff Harder, University of Alberta Libraries
- Sarah Lippincott, Library Publishing Coalition (LPC)
- Alex Mendonça, SciELO
- Susan Murray, African Journals Online (AJOL)
- Victoria Reich, LOCKSS Program, Stanford University Libraries
- Heather Joseph, SPARC
- Dwayne K. Buttler, J.D., University of Louisville

PKP Education

Our education activities this year have focused on reviewing and revising our documentation through the establishment of a new Documentation Interest Group. The international group is pursuing a number of documentation projects, including the selection of Gitbook as our primary documentation platform, updating existing documents and transferring them to Gitbook (e.g., the OJS User Guide), creating a second edition for Getting Found, Staying Found, and writing new documentation (e.g., an OJS/Crossref Manual).

No new PKP School courses have been added this year, but work is proceeding on a new online class on starting a library publishing program, led by Andrea Kosavic and Katherine Robertson of York University. New courses are also in development for both OJS 3 and OMP 1.2, which will be available in the fall of 2016.

https://github.com/pkp/documentation-interest-group

Article-Level Metrics

Although staffing constraints limited how much achieved on the ALM front this year, we did success-fully develop a new plugin to display usage statistics as a chart on the bottom of an article or book page. Work on a more feature-rich ALM plugin will continue in 2016 and 2017 with the assistance of our newest development partner, the University of Alberta Library. Stay tuned for more news in the coming months.

PKP Publishing Services

PKP|PS provides fee-based hosting, software customization, and technical support to individuals and institutions worldwide. PKP|PS continues to grow, adding over 65 new OJS, OMP or OCS instances in 2015 (and 35+ in 2016 so far!), thereby contributing significantly to the financial health of PKP.

Infrastructure management and reinforcement, particularly from a staff perspective, continues to be the most significant challenge for PKP|PS. In addition to growing its client base, PKP|PS also provides infrastructure support for PKP services such as the LOCKSS PLN; the PKP Index; the new community support forum; and various PKP websites and resources, as "in-kind" contributions back to the Project.

Other community services, including Crossref membership support, continue to be supported directly by PKP|PS support staff. Along with the expansion of client and service requirements, PKP|PS staff outlay has expanded significantly since January 2015, with the inclusion of scholarly communications librarians; preservation and communications experts; systems technicians; and even a growing stable of motivated student assistants. PKP|PS currently employs ten staff at varying levels of full- to part-time hours, and three SFU staff also provide significant day to day contributions.

Perhaps the most exciting area of growth for PKP's Publishing Services has been in institutional and multi-journal publisher hosting. Recent additions to the stable include the Griffith University ePress (nine journals); Cappelen Damm (five journals and one press); Humber Press (two journals); the migra-tion of Open Edition journals. We have also seen positive growth of existing publishers already with us, with Codon Publications increasing their journal count from one to three, and adding a press; Multi-Med publishing adding a journal; and Co-Action Publishing adding a number of journals through 2015.

Along with this growth, PKP|PS maintains a commitment to seeing PKP's indexing, preservation, and other services succeed. The challenge for the upcoming year will be to ensure that these vital services are provided to as broad an audience as possible, while also still being made economically viable and financially sustainable for the Project as a whole.

Partnerships

Partnerships are at the heart of PKP. Without the many collaborations and the generous support of our friends and funders in scholarly publishing community, we would never have been able to continue our work for so many years and to remain of value for the thousands of journals, conferences, and book publishers using our software and services.

Development Partners

We would like to thank our development partners, who provide significant contributions, both in-kind and financial, to ensuring PKP remains sustainable and continues to grow.

- Ontario Council of University Libraries (since 2011)
- Simon Fraser University (since 2005)
- Stanford University (since 2007)
- University of Alberta Libraries (new in 2015)
- University of British Columbia Library (since 2011)
- University of Pittsburgh - University Library System (since 2011)

Sponsors

Our thanks also go out to our many sponsors, whose annual financial contribution is a major component of PKP's sustainability strategy.

Gold Level ($10,000)

- Indiana University
- University of Calgary
- University of Illinois (Chicago / Urbana-Champaign)
- University of Toronto Library
- University of Windsor Library
- York University Library

Silver Level ($5,000)

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

Bronze Level ($2,500)

· 1Science
· Biteca Ltda
· Brock University
· Carleton University
· Dalhousie University
· McMaster University
· Ohio State University Libraries
· Queen's University
· University of Arizona
· University of Groningen Library
· University of Tennessee, Knoxville
· Wilfrid Laurier University

PKP Sustainers ($1000 - $2499)

· Lakehead University Library
· Institut für Fundamentaltheologie + Universität Graz
  Informationsmanagement, Universität Graz

Community Committees

As a community-based organization, PKP has three committees made up of our community members, including the Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of the PKP Development Partners, the Technical Committee, and the Members Committee, both of which include representatives of partner and sponsoring organizations, as well as committed volunteers. These committees ensure PKP hears directly from the communities that we serve, volunteer their time to help improve our work, and provide valuable feedback on our goals and priorities. We would like to thank everyone that has participated on these committees, and in particular would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our committee chairs: Timothy Deliyannides, University of Pittsburgh (Advisory Committee), Vanessa Gabler, University of Pittsburgh (Members Committee), and Jeanette Hatherill, University of Ottawa (Technical Committee).

Strategic Partners

Collaborative partnerships are an organic part of any successful open source initiative and PKP is no exception. There is already an extensive list of our strategic partners on the PKP website. During the past year additional effort has been made to strengthen existing relationships and pursue new ones with related projects and other key players in the scholarly publishing ecosystem.

Érudit is the largest French-language research platform in North America and has a longstanding relationship with PKP that originated in 2007 with the Synergies project funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. During the past year Érudit and PKP has been collaborating on the preparation of several new CFI proposals. Érudit has also been participating in the development of a Canadian case study as part of PKP's Open Access Scholarly Publishing Cooperative Study.

PKP continues to expand its relationship with CrossRef since becoming a PILA Sponsoring Entity in 2014. The number of OJS journals using the Crossref direct deposit plug-in passed the 500 mark by the end of 2015. PKP is also a participant in the alt-metrics initiative being coordinated by Crossref and discussing opportunities to participate in joint workshops and other events with them.

Our work with LOCKSS has been critical in developing a robust digital preservation system for our software, and our collaboration with ORCID will ensure reliable author disambiguation.

Alice Meadows, ORCID's Director of Community Engagement & Support said: **"We are very excited about working with PKP so that OJS journals, along with their authors and readers, can realize the benefits of incorporating ORCID IDs at so many points within the lifecycle of a published scholarly article. We look forward to an ongoing collaborative relationship with PKP."**

Other groups we will continue to work closely with include the DOAJ, Fidus Writer, Google Scholar, Hypothes.is, and the Substance Consortium -- all of which provide fundamental infrastructure for modern scholarly digital publishing.

Thinking about supporting PKP? Find out more at https://pkp.sfu.ca/sponsorships/
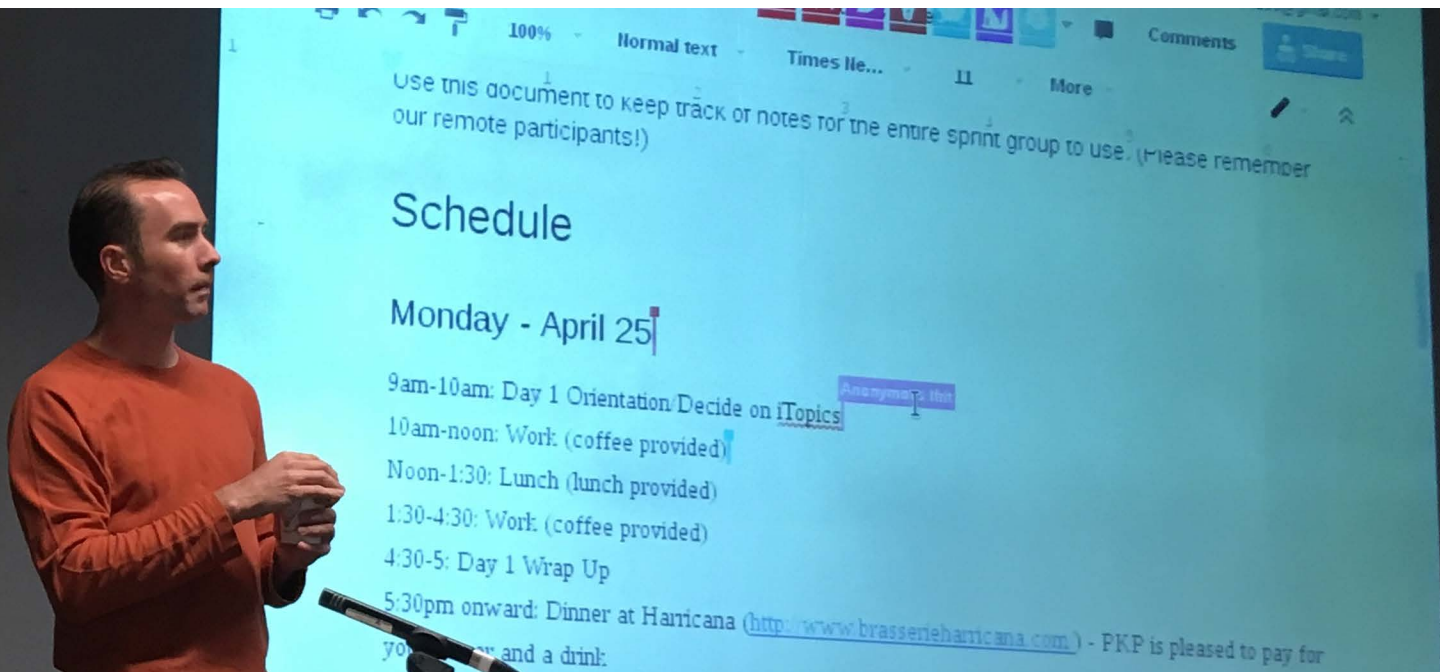
Events

Getting out of the office and meeting with our community members or with others involved in scholarly publishing is an important way that PKP learns and grows. Our own events, such as the PKP conference and the PKP sprints, are opportunities to get together, in person, with team members and volunteers from around the world. Participating in events organized by others allows us to stay up to date on current trends and issues, as well as to catch up with existing partners and to find new collaborators.

PKP Fifth International Scholarly Publishing Conference

PKP's biennial conference was held back in Vancouver in 2015, after traveling to the Freie Universität Berlin in 2011 and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City in 2013. In collaboration with SFU's Canadian Institute for Studies in Publishing and the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab / Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria, the conference was an opportunity for participants to engage on topics related to building open infrastructure and programs for digital humanities, publishing, and libraries. We enjoyed catching up with members of our community and learning from their experiences and challenges. Our community consultation session was a highlight, providing the PKP team with valuable feedback on priorities for the next few years. The main conference program was captured on video and is available on the conference web site. Keep an eye out for an upcoming announcement on the location of the 2017 conference!

PKP Sprints

PKP held developer-oriented sprint events in 2015 in Vancouver and 2016 in Montreal, with plans for an upcoming sprint in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada in October 2016. These events continue to be a highlight for the PKP team and developer community and result in the rapid development of small but important projects that otherwise have proven difficult to schedule. The PKP Blog documents the many positive results of these events.

Conference Participation

In addition to throwing our own events, PKP team members enjoy the opportunity to travel to other meetings and conferences around the world to learn about the latest developments in scholarly publishing. Examples of some of the major events we had the privilege to participate in include:

· The 61st Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials
· Advancing Research and Scholarship Conference
· American Association of University Presses
· American Research Libraries/Canadian Association of Research Libraries Joint Meeting
· Berlin 12
· Canadian Association of Learned Journals Annual General Meeting
· Coalition for Networked Information
· Crossref Annual General Meeting
· ELPUB
· European Network for Cinema and Media Studies
· FORCE 16
· IFLA Libraries as Publishers
· JATS Conference
· Library Publishing Coalition
· Modern Language Association Annual Meeting
· OpenCon
· Society for Scholarly Publishing
· SPARC-ACRL Forum on Emerging Issues in Scholarly Communication
· University of North Texas Open Access Symposium

Come to the next PKP Conference!
http://ocs.sfu.ca/pkp/

Finances

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.

INCOME

Development Partners & Sponsors	$256,310
SFU Library (in-kind)	$ 98,729
Publishing Services	$500,716
Grants	$ 67,629*
Total:	$923,384

* The relatively low amount is a reflection of cash flow. Grant funded work often commences well in advance of the first drawdowns on available funding. For example, an additional $85,000 was invoiced before the end of the 2015/16 fiscal year but did not arrive until after April 1.

EXPENSES

Personnel	$718,055*
Community Support Activities	$ 45,008
Infrastructure	$ 27,689
Administration	$ 6,010
Total:	$796,762

* Personnel expenses were lower than expected primarily due to staff turnover and subsequent difficulties in filling these positions with suitably qualified replacements. This issue was resolved in early 2016.

Staffing

PKP has benefitted from the skill, hard work, and commitment of so many people. This year, we are pleased to welcome some new people to our team and sad to say goodbye to some friends who have moved on to new opportunities.

New Staff

Welcome to new PKP staffers: Bozana Bokan (Systems Developer), Jordan Cloutier (Systems Administrator), Michael Felczak (Systems Developer and Services Associate), Roger Gillis (Services Associate), Kassim Maschioudi (Systems Developer), Mike Nason (Services Associate), Angela Raasch (Finance Manager), and Nate Wright (System Developer).

New Students

And welcome to new our students: Janna Avon (UBC), Khaled Diab (SFU), Sebastian Galvez (Stanford), Sazzad Hussain (SFX), Kamran Naim (Stanford), Fariha Naz (SFU), Joseph Nicolls (Stanford), Andrea Pritt (Pitt), and Matthew Rusk (Stanford).

Farewells

And goodbye and thank you to: Bruno Beghelli, Chris Greencorn, Katie Harris, Karen Meijer-Kline, Jason Nugent, and Baharak Yousefi.

Meet all of our staff
https://pkp.sfu.ca/about/people/

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