art libraries journal

Art journals and monographs in Open Access – a collaborative effort

Alexandra Büttner

Since 2006 Heidelberg University Library has been encouraging the idea of Open Access in the field of art history. Today, as part of the *Specialized Information Service for Art* it offers art historians from all over the world, through the platform *arthistoricum.net*, three different services for e-publishing in Open Access: (1) ART-Dok – a digital repository for single publications and review articles, (2) ART-Journals – a publication management platform for e-journals and (3) ART-Books – a platform for monographs and edited volumes. Apart from providing scholars with software to help them publish professional peer-reviewed open access articles, the library also supports art historians in the transition from print to e-publications by offering them the technical infrastructure as well as organisational support. The service at Heidelberg University Library has shifted towards engaging more closely with academics and setting into practice their individual needs, leaving them to focus on research and contents. These newly developed processes based on a collaborative effort of art librarians and scholars place an important emphasis on the accessibility and provision of art historical research data in Open Access.

The field of art history is in a transitional phase – as are many other humanities. Online publications in Open Access are still by no means standard today, but researchers and art historical institutions are becoming more willing to publish their works online, or partly online, often due to regulations or guide lines set by authorities. Grants and third party funding are in many cases linked to the condition that researchers make their results available online and free of charge to encourage international and interdisciplinary research. Heidelberg University Library therefore provides art historians and art history institutions with the necessary technical and organisational support as well as the infrastructure with which to publish their works, leaving the academics to focus on research and content. Many institutions have neither the capacity for long term archiving nor the technological means to retro-digitize a work and generate searchable full-texts or contact authors for the permission of their online publication. These newly developed procedures set an important emphasis on the accessibility and distribution of art historical research data in Open Access, as Heidelberg University Library is helping academics to overcome any technical, financial and legal obstacles and at the same time easing the path of publication.

Germany's Special Subject Collections on Art History

The following section will elucidate the structure and library system underlying the service which enables Heidelberg University Library to take this new approach. Since 1949 the library has been managing the special subject collection for "Medieval and Modern Art History up to 1945 and Art Studies", and today holds a collection of around 500,000 monographs and about 1,500 art journal subscriptions. The inter-regional library system of special subject collections, financed by the German

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Research Foundation (DFG), was established with the aim to give researchers in Germany access to all existing literature on one specific subject. It was done by selecting single libraries all over Germany to be in charge of one field of research. Thus, the German Research Foundation has, for many years, been financially supporting the build-up of a complete collection (with no gaps) of all national and international publications in the field of art history in Heidelberg. Due to the explosion of digital media in libraries and the striking change in research methods, the German Research Foundation has initiated the restructuring of the entire system of the special subject collections in Germany and began with its implementation in 2014. Thus, the focus today has shifted away from building a complete collection, to encouraging online publications and digitization projects in Open Access as well as providing a more scholarly orientated service. The general policy is to acquire only relevant literature and simultaneously support academic e-publishing by providing a free and sustainable service. Due to this shift, the *Special Subject Collection on Art History* has been renamed *Specialized Information Service for Art*. It is today a joint project of Heidelberg University Library and the Saxon State and University Library Dresden, which holds the special subject collection for "Art since 1945, Photography, Industrial Design and Commercial Graphic Arts". The merging and unification of these two special subject collections on art history into one portal, has created a large and more coherent source of digital art historical resources.

arthistoricum.net – Specialized Information Service for Art

The main doorway to the *Specialized Information Service for Art* is *arthistoricum.net*[1]. It was first launched in 2007 and since then has undergone consistent development and expansion, resulting in its new role as Germany's platform for specialized information service for art history. The website not only offers access to digitized collections of images, retro-digitized art journals and auction catalogues, photographs and other digital resources, but also access to a search function in various German art library catalogues as well as a communication platform for art historians through its blog. *arthistoricum.net* is a platform *by* art historians and *for* art historians. It is a space for networking and a virtual centre for research and publication activities, which encourages and offers free and open access to all data. The focus of this paper will be the online publishing services offered to art historians worldwide through *arthistoricum.net* (1) for single publications and review articles in *ART-Dok*, (2) e-journals in *ART-Journals* as well as (3) monographs and edited volumes in *ART-Books*.[2]

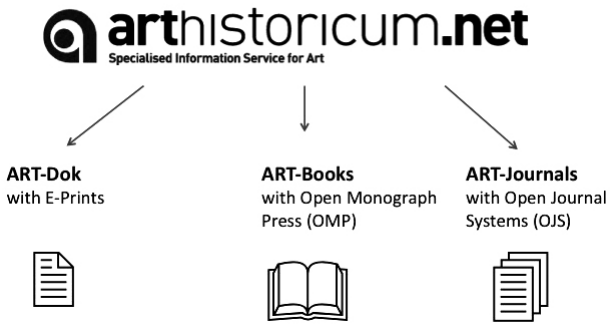


Fig. 1: Open Access Publication Services in *arthistoricum.net*

ART-Dok: a Digital Repository for Single Publications

Heidelberg University Library has chosen to make knowledge accessible and usable by supporting two complementary paths: the *golden* and the *green path* to Open Access.[3] The online repository for single publications and review articles, called *ART-Dok – Digital Repository Art History*[4], was first launched in 2006 and today holds over 3,300 articles, reviews as well as monographs by scholars, post-docs, doctorates and professors in the field of art history and overlapping disciplines. *ART-Dok* is run with the open-source repository software *EPrints*[5] and all its articles have been published with the written consent of the authors and are accessible in Open Access, free of charge. In order to maintain a certain standard quality, online publications by undergraduate and graduate students are solely accepted with the recommendation by the supervising professor or with an excellent grade. The articles, whether they have been retro-digitized from a print edition or handed in a digital format, are full-text searchable and downloadable as PDF files. All documents receive citable Uniform Resource Names (URNs) and Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) and are available via national and international catalogues and databases. Several German professors use *ART-Dok* to give online access to their entire bibliography and make it available through one single webpage. In those cases the scholars provide a list of all their publications and the Heidelberg staff see to retro-digitizing – when no digital files are available – and to publish the works.

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ART-Journals: E-Journals with Open Journal Systems (OJS)

For the set-up of an e-journal a more intense collaboration with scholars is required, as every journal is adapted to the specific needs and wishes of the editors. The publication platform *heiJOURNALS* for e-journals at Heidelberg University Library is realized with *Open Journal Systems (OJS)*[6], a journal management and publishing system that covers the entire editorial review process and workflow for the publication of online journals. The open source software was developed by the US-Canadian Public Knowledge Project (PKP) and is widely used for e-journals worldwide. Heidelberg University Library has been working with OJS since 2006. Today it hosts over 45 journals from various disciplines with around 1,200 issues and around 12,200 articles, forming the largest OJS platform in Germany. The majority of e-journals are published by scholars from Heidelberg University, often in cooperation with other national and international institutions.

Support and Carefree Package

At present Heidelberg University Library is hosting in total six art related e-journals as well as a further over fourteen journals in the field of classical studies and has additional projects in progress.[8] Every journal has its individual layout. The aim is for the scholars and art history institutions to identify with their journal by adapting their desired layout so that it resembles an institutions website or even the appearance of an already existing print journal. The effort has been considered as a success when users do not notice that they have left an institution's website and landed on the journals website.

The University Library ensures the basic set up of the e-journals as as well as the hosting, archiving and updating of the software. The e-journals and articles can be published in various formats, as for example HTML, PDF and EPUB, and receive citable URNs as well as Document Object Identifiers (DOIs). The OJS software is available in several languages and automatically generates an online archive, an index of authors, titles and sections as well as a full-text search function over all articles. It offers reading tools and various plug-ins as well as additional features such as email templates and subscription modules. The software is structured to enable an easy management of peer-reviewed journals, which permits a team of editors and reviewers



Fig. 2: Services for E-Journals offered through *arthistoricum.net*

to work systemically within one journal. The workflow covers every step from an author handing in an article, the review process, the layout etc., continuing up to the publication of an issue.

Visibility and Findability

One further core services is the visibility and indexing in relevant online catalogues. Once the e-journal is online, Heidelberg University Library applies for the ISSN-registration and guarantees its 'findability' in journal databases and online catalogues, such as the German *Zeitschriftendatenbank (ZDB)*[8] or the *Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek (EZB)*[9]. Furthermore, the researchers are supported by having their journals listed and accepted in databases such as the *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*[10]. All articles are catalogued at article level. They are searchable in Heidelberg's local OPAC (online public access catalogue) *HEIDI*[11] and the international meta catalogue *artlibraries.net*[12] as well as the *Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog (KVK)*[13] and *Base (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine)*[14]. The articles, furthermore, have a good visibility in Google, often listed amongst the first three hits. They are indexed in the *German Digital Library*[15] and in the near future will also appear in the recently launched *Art Discovery Group Catalogue*[16] and OCLC's *WorldCat*[17].

Creating a Sustainable OJS-Infrastructure

IT developers from all around the world are continuously optimizing and updating the OJS

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software. Despite its wide distribution, it is, however, by no means flawless and continuously requires improvement and in particular adaptation to the German library system. In order to be able to provide scholars with the best possible infrastructure a project was launched in February 2014 by Heidelberg University Library, in cooperation with the Freie Universität (FU) Berlin and the University Library of Constance, to work more closely with scholars and to embed their needs into the software. As part of the project an online survey was launched in February to get an overview of what requirements German researchers and academics have for e-journal software. The project *OJS-de.net* is financially supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and aims to create a *Sustainable OJS-Infrastructure for Electronic Publishing of Scholarly Journals*[18]. Besides being free, the implementation of open source software has the advantage that any minor requests can be easily integrated into the software through the library's IT-department and in the long run be made available to all OJS software users. At present the IT department is working on a temporary print-on-demand solution for e-journals and e-books until a permanent function has been embedded in the software. The library is taking on mediating role between the scholars and the developers of the software, which is a fairly new role for art librarians. One particular function that Heidelberg was able to integrate into the OJS software, was a statistic tool for article downloads. At present the IT department is working on a print-on-demand option for the e-journals and e-books.[19]

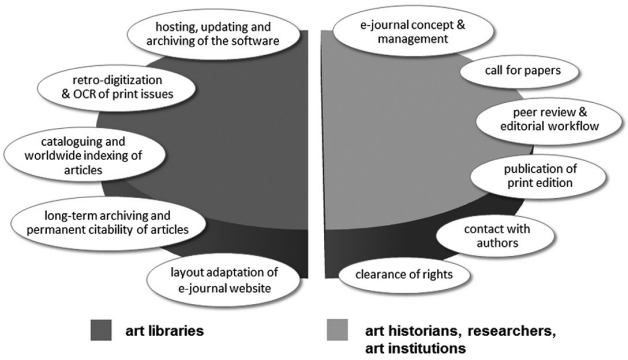


Fig. 3: A Collaborative Effort: Division of Tasks for the Publication of E-Journals

Conversion of Print to Online Journals: a Collaborative Effort

As Open Access journals are still not common in art history, Heidelberg University Library has established a flexible model to support art institutions and art historians along the way. One of the most successful workflows it has established for art and archaeological journals is the conversion of a print journal to an open access e-journal, supporting the green path to Open Access. In collaboration with the editors, and often the publishers, all authors of prior issues are identified, located and approached for their cooperation. Once the signed agreement has arrived, the article is digitized, a searchable full-text is generated via Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and finally uploaded for publication.

First experiences in the conversion of a print journal to an Open Access e-journal were gathered in cooperation with the editors and the publishers of the established journal *kritische berichte – Zeitschrift für Kunst- und Kulturwissenschaften*[20], the journal for art and cultural sciences. In this case, Heidelberg University Library contacted all authors in collaboration with the Ulmer Verein to seek their cooperation. Today over 160 issues published between 1973 and 2009 are online. In order for the online version not to interfere with the printed issues, the editors have agreed upon a five year moving wall. All issues were retro-digitized, but if PDF files already existed they were included, in order to not generate superfluous data. Furthermore, Heidelberg University Library has established a collaboration with the publishers that once the print issue for the current issue appears, it receives the PDF files.

With other journals following this model the moving wall varies between one and five years. The following two journals have chosen this model and other institutions have already signalled their interest. The journal for cultural heritage preservation in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, called *Denkmalpflege in Baden-Württemberg – Nachrichtenblatt der Landesdenkmalpflege*[21] is online with about 220 issues from 1958 up until today. As the editors in this case hold the rights for the articles, it was possible to digitize and publish all issues. From today onwards the journal will simultaneously appear both online and in print. The journal *AKMB-news – Informationen zu Kunst, Museum und Bibliothek*[22] on German art and museum libraries, published by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kunst- und Museumsbibliotheken (AKMB) (German equivalent to ARLIS), have selected a moving wall of one year. Today it is online with 46 issues from 1995 to 2014.

In the case of the e-journal *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Archäologie des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit*[23], which for several years existed both in print and online format on an independent website, the editors decided to move their journal

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to Heidelberg's OJS platform as it is able to provide automatically generated search and index functions and in particular guarantees greater findability and sustainability.

Autonomous Journal Management and the Gold Path

In the long run the aim of this project is to have scholars manage their own journals. With more and more e-journals being published via OJS, once the journal is up and running, Heidelberg leaves the entire responsibility for the content and the reviewing process in the hands of the editors and managers. Therefore, prior to the set up and publication of an e-journal the library gives the editors a practical introduction to the system as well as all its functions and workflows.

The majority of articles published through *arthistoricum.net* have appeared via the *green path* to Open Access, but significant steps towards *Gold* publications have been made. The two art journals *Miradas. The E-journal for Iberian and Iberoamerican Art*[24] and *NEUE kunstwissenschaftliche forschungen*[25], launched in 2014, were the first journals to appear on *Gold* Open Access on Heidelberg's OJS platform. *Miradas* is a German-Mexican cooperation project managed by the Iberian and Iberoamerican Art History Department of Heidelberg University Library in cooperation with the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas of the UNAM in Mexico City and the Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades of the BUAP in Puebla Mexico. Due to the different languages provided through OJS, both for the website navigation functions and the templates, the review process can easily be managed on an international level. The second e-journal *NEUE kunstwissenschaftliche forschungen* is managed by an editorial team of graduates from the Wiener Institut following the footsteps of the established journal *Kunstwissenschaftliche Forschungen*. It, too, employs OJS for the entire editorial process including announcements such as the Call for Papers.

ART-Books: Art History E-Books with Open Monograph Press (OMP)

Increasingly art institutions, museums, associations or individual art historians are eager to have their own online platform with edited volumes or monographs, which might focus for example on one collection or a conference. In order for scholars to have their own site Heidelberg University Library has set up *Open Monograph Press (OMP)*[26] a publication management system for e-books. OMP is also an open source software, developed by the Public Knowledge Project. Heidelberg's role lies in providing the technical support for the publication of e-books and maintaining the platform by providing the same services as for OJS. The OMP software is, in comparison, still relatively young and therefore a considerable amount of technical development is yet to be expected.[27] The core functions, however, are available. The software supports the publication of formats such as HTML and EPUB, and the e-books can be viewed online or downloaded as PDF-files. The cooperating institutions are given backing with the digitization of printed issues, if desired, as well as the generation of searchable full-texts via OCR. Heidelberg also ensures the visibility of publications. All monographs receive citable DOIs and URNs and are catalogued in the same national and international catalogues following the procedure as mentioned in the context of OJS.

The new software not only offers the option to publish e-books online in Open Access but furthermore to bundle them into separate collections. An introduction to the collection can be added as well as links to other websites. Here, the future aim is for art institutions to manage their own collections. They will receive access to their collection and upload any monographs they wish to publish. A first collaboration was entered into with the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon (MPS) of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, which have used the *arthistoricum.net – ART-Books* platform to publish both their museum collection catalogues and a publication series online.[28]

Publishing Research Data

As the interconnection between e-publications and resource data has become more and more essential, an additional service has been provided for all authors and editors publishing with OJS and OMP. Scholars in the field of art history have the possibility to archive their entire research data, such as films, images, sound files, tables etc. The research database at Heidelberg is called *HeiDATA Dataverse Network*[29] and has been set up in cooperation with the Competence Centre for Research Data (KFD) and the University's IT Department. The research data receives a DOI and the long-term archiving of the material is assured. The permanent archiving and citability of this data enables scholars the integration of primary sources into online publications, to

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cite and link them to the corresponding article or monograph. The publication and archiving of research data in general is one of the main conditions for reconstructing and verifying research results as well as sharing and reusing the data in future for new academic questions.

Heidelberg University Library considers itself as a driving force in this transitory period of book v. electronic interfacing by providing institutions, editors and art historians with support and a carefree package for online publications through *arthistoricum.net*. Art historians are now able to focus more on their research, the content and peer-reviewing of a journal, whereas the library takes on a more administrative position and continues its vital role in expanding its collection of publications. The collaborative effort is a benefit for both parties, supporting a more efficient and professional publication of e-journals and e-books in the Open Access movement.

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