

Spring 2021

Covid-19 and Open Access in the Humanities: Impacts and Emerging Trends

Olivia Rollins
Portland State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/eng_bookpubpaper



Part of the [Communication Technology and New Media Commons](#), and the [Publishing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Rollins, Olivia, "Covid-19 and Open Access in the Humanities: Impacts and Emerging Trends" (2021). *Book Publishing Final Research Paper*. 59.

https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/eng_bookpubpaper/59

This Paper is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Book Publishing Final Research Paper by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

**Covid-19 and Open Access in the Humanities:
Impacts and Emerging Trends**

Olivia Rollins

May 8, 2021

Graduate Committee:

Rachel Noorda

Kent Watson

RESEARCH QUESTION

How is the Covid-19 pandemic affecting open-access publishing in the humanities?

ABSTRACT

Discussions of open-access publishing tend to center the scientific disciplines, and this trend has continued during the Covid-19 pandemic. But while the pandemic has certainly shed new light on the importance of openly accessible medical research, its effects—from economic impacts to attitudinal shifts—have been felt and speculated about across disciplines. This paper presents an investigation into present and future impacts of the pandemic on open-access publishing in the humanities, which have historically been slower to adopt open-access models than other disciplines.

A survey distributed to scholarly publishing professionals, academic librarians, and others working in open-access humanities publishing sought to determine what changes these professionals had observed in their field since the start of the pandemic, as well as what impacts they projected for the long term. While the lasting effects of this still-evolving global health and economic crisis remain uncertain, the survey results indicate that open-access humanities professionals have already observed changes in areas including market demand, institutional interest, and funding, while many of them predict that the pandemic will have a long-term impact on the field. These findings contribute to an ongoing conversation about the place of the humanities in the open-access publishing landscape and the need for sustainable institutional investment.

INTRODUCTION

Open access has been one of the most significant developments—and one of the biggest sources of controversy, debate, and confusion—in the world of scholarly publishing in recent decades. One potential source of confusion is the very basic question of what open access actually means. In his book *Open Access and the Humanities*, Martin Paul Eve provides this straightforward and serviceable definition: “The term ‘open access’ refers to the removal of price and permission barriers to scholarly research. Open access means peer-reviewed academic research work that is free to read online and that anybody may redistribute and reuse, with some restrictions” (1). Open access (OA), then, is essentially research that is both free to access (assuming one has access to the internet) and free to use. Though this may seem like a simple concept, OA occupies a complex position within scholarly publishing, and it has seen uneven implementation across disciplines. This introduction will provide an overview of the state of OA in the humanities, the existing literature addressing OA and the Covid-19 pandemic, and the positioning of this paper relative to existing literature.

OA and the Humanities

The concept of OA originated in academic journals in the sciences and has seen significant growth and adoption in scientific fields in recent years (Eve, *Open Access and the Humanities* 23). Meanwhile, OA has been much slower to catch on in the humanities (Eve, “Open Access Publishing” 16). This disparity has been attributed to several key differences between scholarly publishing in the sciences and scholarly publishing in the humanities. As outlined by Peter Suber in his preface to *Open Access*

and the Humanities, these key differences include the following: a lack of public funding for humanities research relative to scientific research; higher rejection rates at humanities journals, necessitating higher article-processing fees for every published article; the centrality of monographs (book-length works of scholarship, which are much more expensive to produce than journal articles) in humanities scholarship; and greater skepticism about OA within the humanities community. This last point is supported by survey data: a 2015 survey of academic authors showed that authors in the humanities and social sciences were more likely to be concerned about the perceived quality of OA journals than STEM authors—41% of authors in the humanities and social sciences reported such concerns, compared to only 27% of STEM authors. However, it is also worth noting that the level of concern in all disciplines had decreased significantly since the previous year, suggesting that skepticism about OA in the humanities is diminishing over time (*Author Insights* 11).

Despite all these obstacles, there have been a number of initiatives to promote open access in the humanities. Some examples include Open Book Publishers and Open Humanities Press in the United Kingdom and TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem) in the United States. And while most discourse around OA still centers scientific disciplines, there is nonetheless a significant body of research and writing devoted to OA adoption in the humanities. Eve is a major contributor to this body of work, having written extensively about the history of OA, the reasons for its slow adoption in the humanities, and the potential for greater OA adoption in the humanities going forward. Another key contribution is *The State of Open Monographs*, a 2019 report focusing specifically on the monograph—a form that has faced particular challenges in the transition to OA in the humanities and social sciences. The report

outlines these challenges—which include problems with the supply chain, metadata, usage tracking, and funding—and discusses recent initiatives, like TOME, that aim to promote open monographs (Grimme).

In addition to these works, which take a broader view of the state of OA in the humanities, there have also been studies that have focused more narrowly on specific pieces of the puzzle. Some of these have looked at attitudes and perceptions. For example, Narayan et. al. used an online questionnaire to gauge perceptions of OA among Australian scholars in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Based on their findings, the study authors made recommendations for how institutional policies and librarians can help to encourage greater acceptance of OA in these fields. Others have taken a different approach, focusing on the journals rather than the scholars. Ojennus, for example, did a case study of classics journals to determine which approaches to OA in the humanities were most successful. Some key conclusions he drew from this study were that there is no one-size-fits-all model for OA and that efforts to promote OA in the humanities should focus on independent journals rather than large publishers.

OA and Covid-19

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, discourse around OA has continued to focus disproportionately on the scientific disciplines. Grove, Tavernier, and others have written about how the pandemic has led to an acceleration in the movement toward OA among scientific journals. The emergent nature of Covid-19—along with its widespread and disastrous effects on society—has highlighted the importance of making scientific research freely and immediately available to all for the sake of the public good. But while this connection between the pandemic and increased OA in the sciences is fairly obvious

and has therefore been the subject of several articles in industry publications, very little has been written about how the pandemic might affect OA in the humanities. After all, most people likely do not consider the dissemination of humanities research to be as urgent as the dissemination of medical research during a global health crisis, and the humanities therefore take a backseat.

However, some scholars have argued that humanities research is critical during such times of crisis. Ostherr, for example, has proposed that humanities scholars work collaboratively with public-health experts as part of the front-line response to the pandemic. In her view, humanities scholarship “provides critical historical and cultural context and can broaden the perspectives of public health and medical trainees.” Jandrić has also argued that the humanities—along with the social sciences—have an important role to play in this crisis, writing, “In the long run, humanity cannot defend itself from Covid-19 and create a better future without engaging all strata of the society. Therefore, it is crucial that academic researchers working in the humanities and social sciences immediately join the struggle against the pandemic” (236). More recently, Shah has made a similar pitch for the importance of humanists and social scientists in the process of pandemic recovery. And if the humanities have an urgent role to play in the pandemic response and recovery, then it certainly stands to reason that any emerging trends and developments related to OA in the humanities are worthy of close attention. The scientific disciplines are not the only ones in which questions of freely accessible research take on new urgency in a pandemic.

Some scholars have, in fact, begun to speculate on how the pandemic might have a lasting impact on OA in the humanities. Tavernier, for example, has suggested that a shift toward more OA in the sciences could lead to a similar shift in other disciplines,

including the humanities, as the overall value of OA becomes more obvious and accepted. Tavernier questions whether, in a post-Covid world, it will still be acceptable for publishers to put paywalls around research (229). It is also worth considering how, as libraries halted in-person services and students and researchers became more reliant on digital research materials, the pandemic might have drawn attention to the importance of OA in all branches of scholarship, including the humanities. At the same time, we might also wonder how the widespread economic crisis that has resulted from the pandemic has affected (and may continue to affect) funding for OA humanities initiatives. These are the kinds of questions this paper aims to investigate. My research seeks to fill a gap in the literature by assessing the current and potential impacts of the pandemic on OA in the humanities—a subject that has not yet garnered much scholarly attention but that will likely have a very real bearing on the scholarly publishing landscape, and the place of the humanities within that landscape, for many years to come.

METHODS

In order to investigate emerging trends in OA humanities publishing in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, I sent out a survey. The survey method was selected because of the need for qualitative data based on the knowledge, perceptions, and observations of industry professionals. Given the emergent and developing nature of the pandemic and the numerous ways in which the pandemic might affect the world of OA, this research question was not one that could be answered through analysis of sales figures or other

quantitative measures. Rather, it was necessary to obtain qualitative data from those with an inside view of the field.

Target Respondents and Survey Distribution

The survey was directed at professionals who work in OA humanities publishing and closely related fields. My target respondents included academic librarians as well as publishing professionals who work for university presses and OA initiatives—particularly those who have special familiarity with OA in the humanities. In order to reach these target respondents, I relied on my contacts at the Portland State University library and in the Portland State University English department. Through these contacts, I was able to send my survey to relevant email groups and lists. Survey responses were collected between January 11, 2020, and February 1, 2020.

Survey Questions

The survey (reproduced in the appendix) was created using Qualtrics and consisted of ten questions. The survey included a branching function, which showed different questions to different respondents based on their previous answers. (For example, if a respondent reported that they had not observed that the pandemic had had any effect on OA humanities publishing, they were not then asked to report which effects they had observed, as such a question would not be relevant to them.) An overview of the survey questions is provided below.

Questions 1–3 asked respondents about their line of work and the country or region in which they worked. These were the “who” questions. Question 1 was an elimination question, designed to ensure that only the target population completed the

survey: if respondents indicated that they *did not* work in OA humanities publishing or a closely related field, they were not allowed to complete the survey.

Questions 4–7 asked respondents about their personal observations regarding the pandemic’s effects on OA humanities publishing. Respondents were asked whether they had observed any effects, how significant these effects were, and what specific kinds of effects they had observed. Respondents were also asked whether they had observed any increased demand for OA humanities products during the pandemic.

Questions 8–9 asked respondents to make predictions about any potential lasting impacts of the pandemic on OA humanities publishing. Question 8 asked respondents if they thought the pandemic would have a lasting impact; question 9, in turn, asked respondents to list any specific lasting impacts they predicted.

Question 10 gave respondents an opportunity to share any additional thoughts or to elaborate on their previous answers. This question was open-ended: respondents could type as much as they wanted in the text box, or they could effectively skip this question by typing a symbol or “N/A.” This question was designed to capture any additional trends or observations that were not anticipated by the previous questions.

Method of Analysis

After closing the survey, I reviewed all the complete responses one question at a time, tallying up the different responses to each question and converting those numbers to percentages. I then used this data to create charts and graphs to make the numbers easier to interpret (see “Results” below).

The open-ended questions that required respondents to type their answers in text boxes produced data that was not as easily quantifiable. In some of these cases (those

where respondents selected “Other” for questions 6 and 9 and then filled in their own answers), I have reproduced the responses in full in the “Results” section, as a supplement to the quantitative data. For question 10, which garnered many lengthy qualitative responses, I tagged each response based on its contents, sorted all the responses into general categories, noted key trends, and translated these trends into quantitative data where it made sense to do so (see “Results: The Final Question”).

RESULTS

There were a total of 53 complete responses to the survey. Incomplete responses were not included in the data analysis. The subsections below offer a breakdown of the response data by question type.

Who Completed the Survey

The majority of respondents reported that they worked either in scholarly publishing (39.6%) or in academic libraries at public institutions (35.8%). A significant number (15.1%) reported working in academic libraries at private institutions. No respondents reported working for historical societies or museums, and 9.4% reported working in other settings. Of those who selected “Other,” most stated that they were faculty members or professors, while one reported working in digital archives.

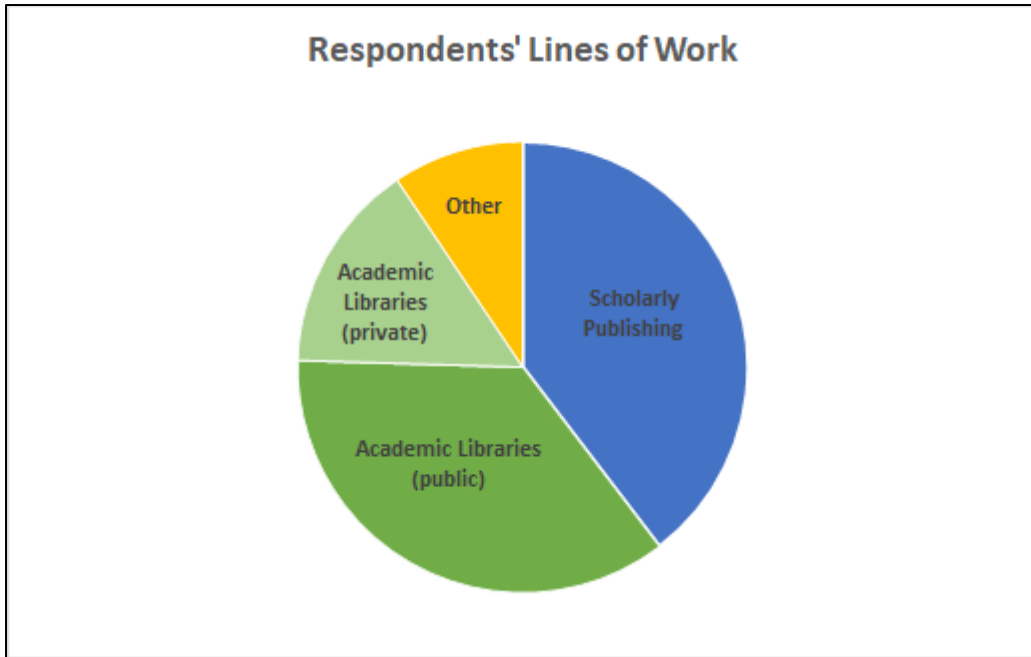


Figure 1. Survey Respondents' Lines of Work

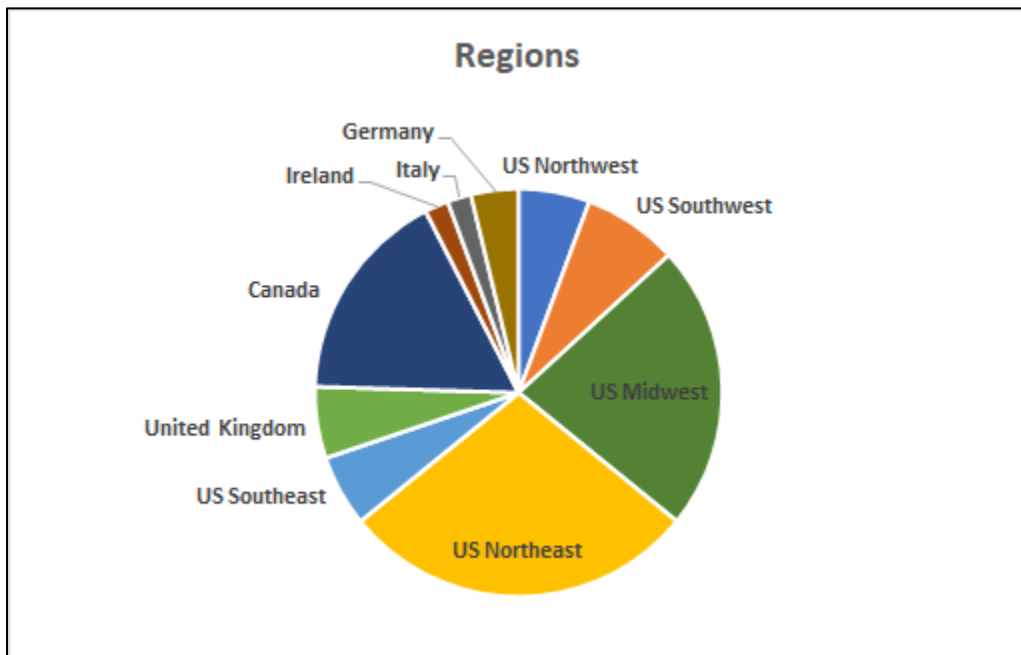


Figure 2. Survey Respondents' Regional Affiliations

In terms of geographical location, 69.8% of respondents reported that they were working in the US, while 30.2% were working in other countries. The majority of respondents reported working in the northeastern US (28.3%), the midwestern US (22.6%), or Canada (17.0%). The other countries and regions represented, in smaller numbers, were the southwestern US (7.5%), the northwestern US (5.7%), the southeastern US (5.7%), the UK (5.7%), Germany (3.8%), Ireland (1.9%), and Italy (1.9%).

What They Had Observed

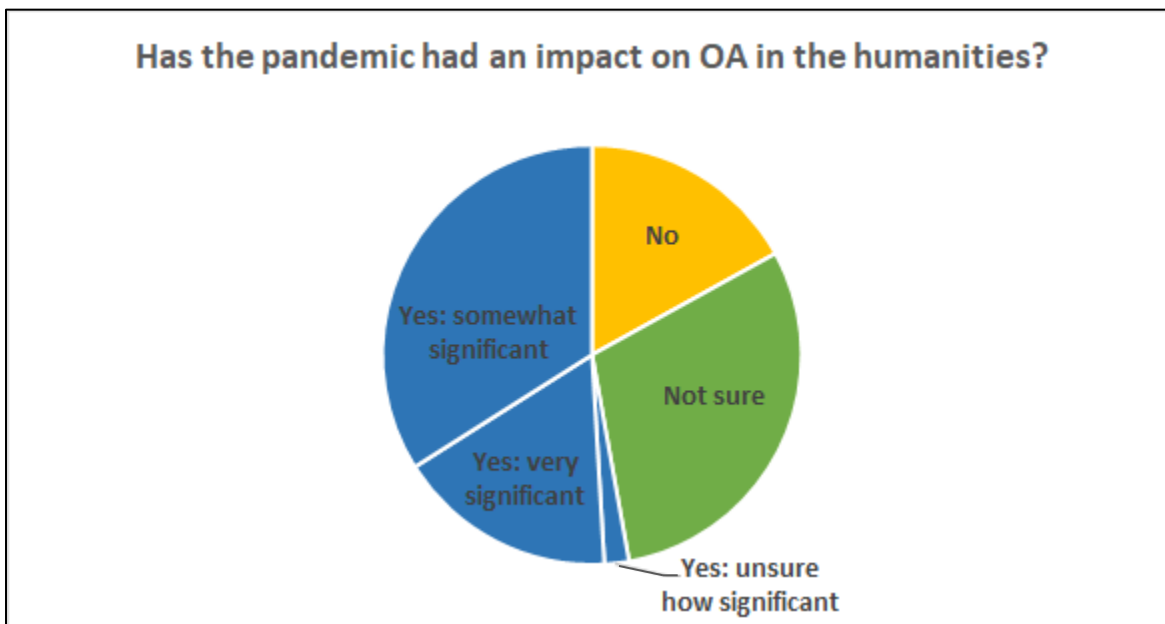


Figure 3. Has the pandemic had an impact on OA in the humanities?

A narrow majority (52.8%) of those who completed the survey reported that, according to their own observations, the Covid-19 pandemic had had an impact on OA in the humanities. Of these, 32.1% reported that the impact was very significant, 64.3% reported that it was somewhat significant, and 3.6% reported that they were unsure of

how significant the impact was. This translates to an overall figure of 50.1% of respondents who had observed a *significant* impact of the pandemic on OA humanities publishing. Meanwhile, 17.0% reported that they had not observed any impact, and 30.2% were unsure whether they had observed any impact.

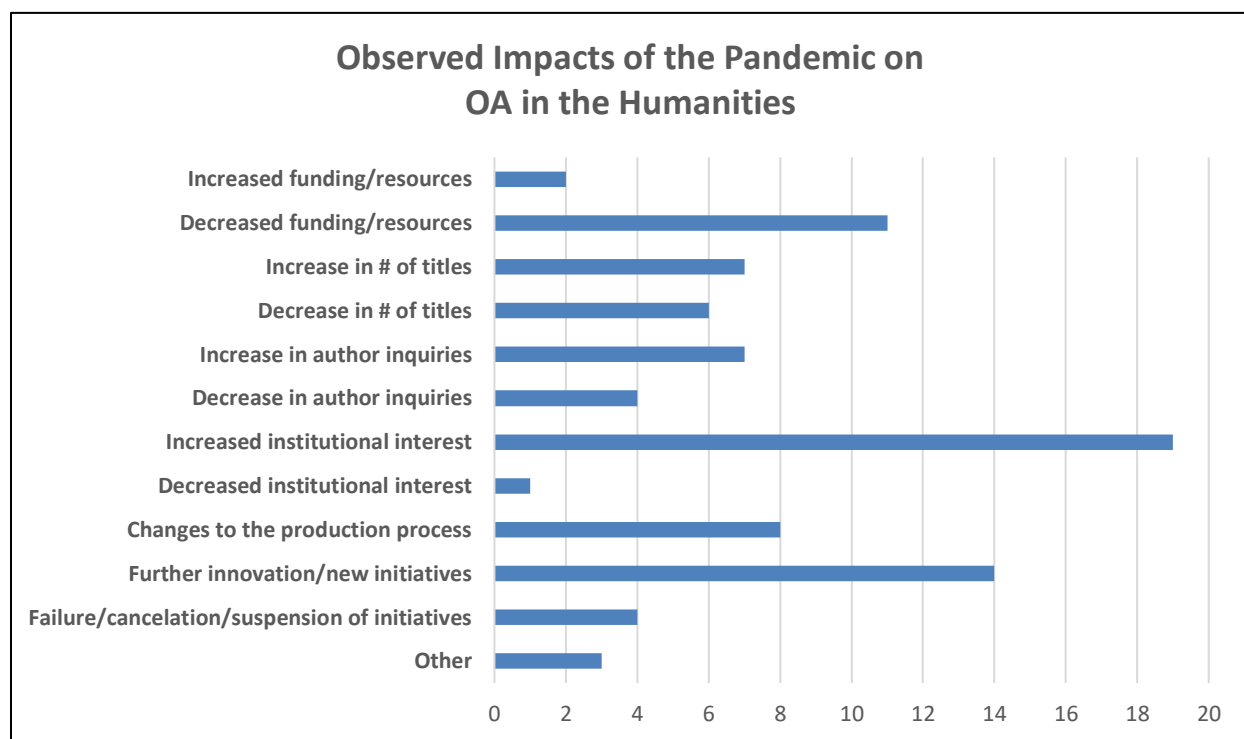


Figure 4. Observed Impacts of the Pandemic on OA in the Humanities

In terms of the specific effects of the pandemic on OA humanities publishing,¹ the most commonly reported were increased interest on the part of university presses and academic institutions (67.9%), further innovation/new initiatives (50.0%), and decreased funding/resources (39.3%).² Other commonly reported impacts were changes

¹ For the questions about the specific effects of the pandemic (both observed and predicated), respondents were allowed to select multiple items. This is why the percentages in this paragraph add up to more than 100.

² These percentages were calculated based on a total figure of 28, which is the number of respondents who reported that they had observed at least some impact of the pandemic on OA humanities publishing. They do not factor in those respondents who did not report any observed impact.

to the production process (28.6%), an increase in the number of titles acquired (25.0%), an increase in author inquiries (25.0%), and a decrease in the number of titles acquired (21.4%). Less-commonly reported observations were a decrease in the number of author inquiries (14.3%), failure/cancelation/suspension of initiatives (14.3%), and increased funding/resources (7.1%). Additionally, 10.7% of these respondents reported effects that were not listed among the options provided. These additional effects were described as follows:

- “Increased interest from academic libraries in seeking out or providing access to OA publications.”
- “Decreased availability of peer reviewers.”
- “More interest and questions about open access, and about publishing systems.”

Another observation-based question asked whether or not respondents had noticed an increase in demand for OA products in the humanities. Of the total number of respondents, 77.4% responded “yes,” 7.5% responded “no,” and 15.1% responded “not sure.”

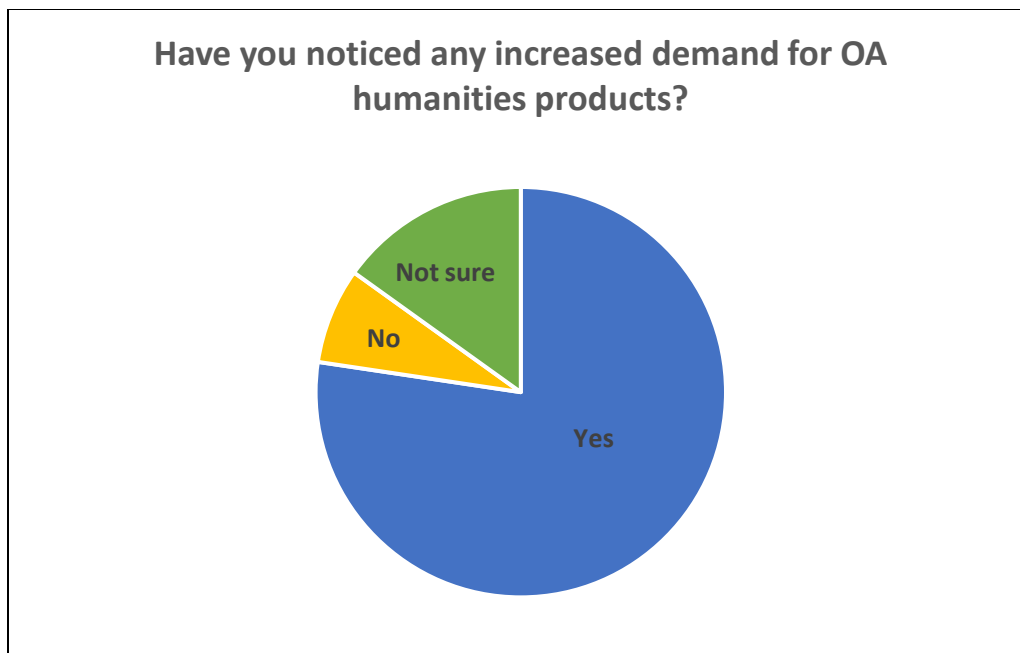


Figure 5. Increased Demand for OA Humanities Products

What They Predicted

When asked if they thought the pandemic would have a lasting impact on OA in the humanities, 60.4% predicted that it would. Only 1.9% predicted that it would not have a lasting impact, while 37.7% were unsure.

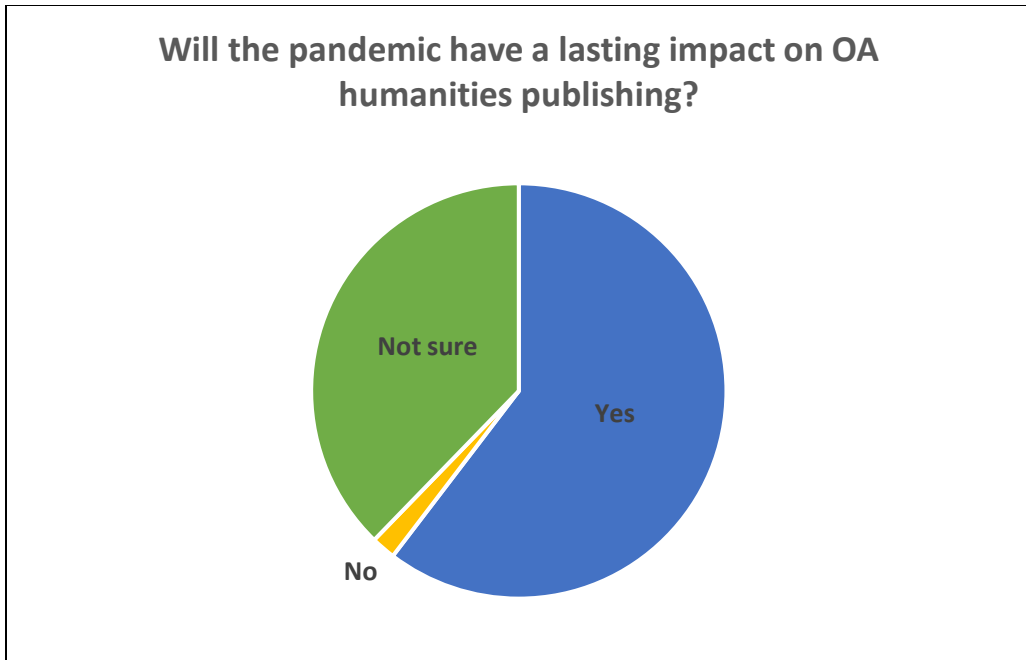


Figure 6. Will the pandemic have a lasting impact on OA humanities publishing?

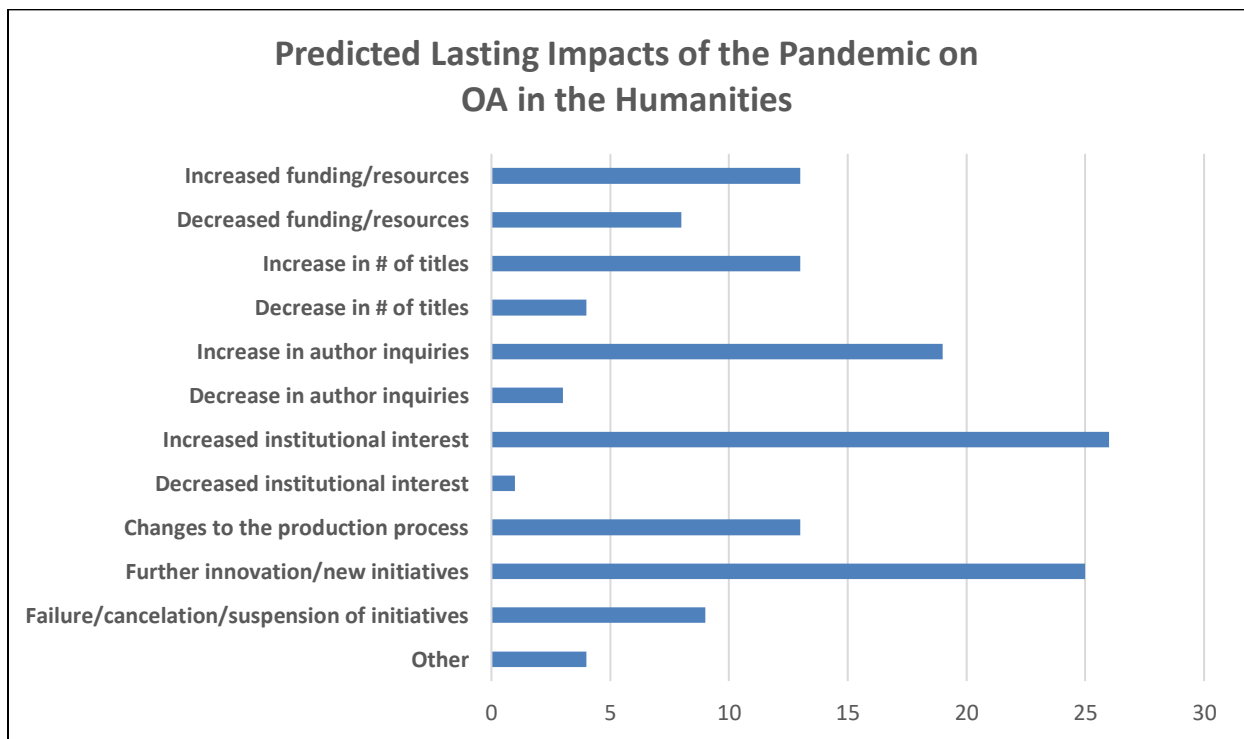


Figure 7. Predicted Lasting Impacts of the Pandemic on OA in the Humanities

Of the respondents who predicted lasting impacts, very high numbers predicted increased interest from university presses and academic institutions (81.2%) and further innovation/new initiatives (78.1%). Other common predictions were an increase in the number of author inquiries (59.4%), increased funding and/or resources (40.6%), an increase in the number of titles acquired (40.6%), and changes to the production process (40.6%). Sizable minorities predicted failure/cancellation/suspension of initiatives (28.1%) and decreased funding/resources (25.0%). Respondents were less likely to predict a decrease in the number of titles acquired (12.5%), a decrease in author inquiries (9.4%), and decreased interest from university presses and academic institutions (3.1%). Meanwhile, 12.5% made other predictions that were not listed among the options provided. Those predictions were stated as follows:

- “Authors, researchers and faculty are more aware of the advantages of publishing on Open Access resources.”
- “Increased awareness of OA and its benefits. Less money (all around) to pay for it.”
- “Acceleration of defunding of humanities programs, university presses, and related initiatives. See elimination of entire humanities programs that have already happened since March.”

The Final Question

The final question gave respondents the opportunity to leave additional comments or expand on their previous answers. In total, 39 respondents provided substantive

answers to this question.³ Of these, 17.9% shared mostly positive observations and predictions about the pandemic's effects on OA humanities publishing. Meanwhile, 15.4% focused on negative observations and predictions. The remaining 66.7% of responses were mixed or neutral, meaning they either reported no pandemic-related observations or predictions, reported observations or predictions that were framed as neither positive nor negative, or reported both positive and negative observations or predictions.

Many of these responses reiterated or expanded upon data that was already captured in the responses to previous questions. However, there were a few topics raised in this final response that were not captured elsewhere in the survey data. The most common of these were changes in awareness, attitudes, and perceptions. Of those who responded to this final question, 30.1% reported or predicted an increase in awareness of OA in the humanities, changes in people's perceptions of it, or changes in people's attitudes toward it.

In their final responses, a significant number of respondents also reported that OA humanities publishing had suffered a loss of funding that, inconveniently, coincided with an increase in interest or demand. This challenging paradox was noted by 17.9% of those who answered the final question.

³ This includes one respondent who entered "see previous answer under 'other'" in this text box. This person's answer to the previous question (regarding additional lasting impacts) was analyzed alongside the responses to the final question because it was primarily an elaboration on the respondent's previous answers.

ANALYSIS

One notable finding from this survey is that, while only about half of respondents reported that they had observed any effects of the pandemic on their field, a sizable majority reported that they had observed an increase in demand for OA humanities products since the start of the pandemic. This highlights the importance of the ways in which questions are worded and presented to respondents: evidently, not all respondents were thinking about increased demand when they answered the question about observed impacts. In any case, it is unsurprising that most respondents reported an increase in demand for OA humanities products, considering that remote work and remote learning have pushed academic research and coursework online. This finding suggests that, while OA in the sciences has gotten more academic and media attention since the start of the pandemic, the increase in demand for OA products is a cross-disciplinary trend.

Another interesting finding is that respondents were more likely to predict lasting impacts than to report current impacts (60.4% compared to 52.8%). This suggests that the pandemic may have a delayed effect on OA in the humanities: in this evolving situation, the dust has yet to settle. This finding aligns with the fact that significant numbers of respondents reported that they were unsure whether they had observed any impacts or whether there would be lasting impacts—roughly a third of respondents in both cases. This reflects a high level of uncertainty over the short- and long-term effects of the pandemic in this field. Understandably, many OA humanities professionals are finding it difficult to assess emerging changes from the inside.

Among the respondents who *did* report or predict effects, some noteworthy trends emerged. For the question about specific observed impacts, the top two answers were increased institutional interest and further innovation/new initiatives. These were also the top two answers when respondents were asked to predict long-term impacts, suggesting that a significant number of respondents thought that the trends they were seeing in institutional interest and innovations were likely to continue into the future.

However, the responses to these two questions also diverged in some key ways. The third most common answer for *observed* impacts was decreased funding and resources; meanwhile, the third most common answer for *lasting* impacts was an increase in the number of author inquiries. For observed impacts, respondents were also more likely to report a decrease in the number of titles acquired, whereas for lasting impacts, respondents were more likely to predict an increase in funding or resources, an increase in the number of titles acquired, changes to the production process, and the failure, cancelation, or suspension of initiatives. These differences show that, on the whole, the survey responses were more likely to reflect positive changes (i.e., an increase in funding and an increase in titles acquired) for the long term than for the short term. This suggests that many respondents believe that, while funding for OA humanities publishing may be suffering as an immediate consequence of the pandemic, the field is likely to bounce back even stronger in the end. The only clear exception to this pattern is the fact that respondents were more likely to predict the failure, cancelation, or suspension of OA humanities initiatives for the long term than to report this as an impact that they had already observed. There is no clear explanation for this, but one possibility (which is purely conjecture) is that some respondents believe that the present

decrease in funding will soon lead to the permanent cancelation of certain OA initiatives before any long-term increase in funding transpires.

At the end of the previous section, I noted that in their responses to the final question, a significant number of respondents reported or predicted a loss of funding coinciding with an increase in interest or demand for OA humanities products. This is a trend that also appears elsewhere in the survey data. When asked about lasting impacts, respondents were less likely to predict an increase in funding than they were to predict an increase in author inquiries, an increase in institutional interest, or further innovation and new initiatives. This suggests a potentially problematic scenario (as several respondents pointed out in their answers to the final question) in which funding for OA in the humanities fails to keep up with interest and demand. Such a lag in funding would threaten any potential positive impacts in a post-pandemic OA landscape.

LIMITATIONS

One obvious limitation of this research is the sample size. The 53 survey respondents represent only a small percentage of professionals working in OA humanities publishing and related fields. Since the survey was distributed through my academic and professional connections and was completely voluntary, there is also the possibility of self-selection of respondents and other factors and biases that may have influenced who completed the survey and who did not. One of the clear biases is geographical: most of the respondents were from the US and Canada, likely owing to the fact that most of my connections are based in the US. If the survey had been distributed more widely in other

countries and the respondents were more geographically representative, the results might have been different.

Another limitation to consider is the timeline. Circumstances necessitated that I complete most of the research (including both reviewing the existing literature and gathering the survey data) in late 2020 and early 2021. Because the pandemic's effect on OA in the humanities is an emerging and evolving topic, such research runs the risk of quickly becoming outdated. This paper is therefore intended only to provide a limited snapshot of provisional observations and emerging trends in the field. This also presents an opportunity for further research: it would be productive to send out a similar survey in the coming months or even years in order to compare the results from the two studies to learn how mid- and post-pandemic trends evolve over time.

Limited time and resources also prevented me from conducting interviews with OA professionals, which would have been fruitful. Interviews would have provided opportunities to ask respondents targeted follow-up questions to get a better sense of their observations and the reasoning behind their predictions for lasting impacts. A study incorporating these kinds of interviews represents another opportunity for further research.

And finally, this survey relied exclusively on subjective observations and predictions. It is impossible to reliably predict the future in such an unprecedented and evolving situation, and the actual lasting impacts of the pandemic on OA in the humanities remain to be seen. At a later date, it would be fruitful to conduct research on the actual impacts of the pandemic and compare that data to the observations and predictions made by the survey respondents.

CONCLUSION

While scientific research journals have gotten the most attention in discussions about OA, the results of this survey suggest that the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting scholarly publishing beyond STEM fields. Academic librarians, scholarly publishers, and others in the field are observing the ways in which the pandemic has affected OA in the humanities and speculating about what the future holds.

Some of these observations and speculations are hopeful: it seems, for example, that awareness of and interest in OA humanities publishing is increasing as people are developing a deeper understanding of the importance of equitable digital access. At the same time, there are looming questions about how the economic fallout from the pandemic will affect OA humanities publishers and initiatives going forward. The exact nature of these challenges and the industry's responses to them remain to be seen, but conversation has already sprung up around the need to rethink funding models. Many of the points raised in these conversations reflect preexisting challenges that are now being exacerbated by the pandemic. For example, there have been calls for an increased commitment to equitable, sustainable inter-institutional investment in humanities publishing, which is only directly supported by a tiny fraction of the institutions that it benefits (Watkinson and Pitts). These conversations and calls for change will certainly continue and evolve as we learn more about what a post-pandemic scholarly publishing landscape looks like. And while much about that future remains uncertain, it is clear that it will require a reckoning with questions of equity, access, sustainability, and the place of the humanities within the larger academic ecosystem.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Rachel Noorda, Dr. Kathi Inman Berens, Abbey Gaterud, Robyn Crummer-Olson, and the rest of the Portland State University book publishing faculty for the expertise they've shared and the guidance they've provided over the past several years. I am also grateful to Karen Bjork, Jill Emery, Joan Petit, and Hannah Brooks-Motl for the insights they generously shared with me throughout the research process. For their help with survey distribution, I offer my thanks to Elisabeth Ceppi, Charles Watkinson, and the Library Publishing Coalition. And finally, I am deeply appreciative of the survey respondents (anonymous though they are), without whom this research would not have been possible.

WORKS CITED

- Author Insights 2015 Survey*. Nature Research, 2015. Figshare, doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.1425362.v7. Accessed 6 Dec. 2020.
- Eve, Martin Paul. *Open Access and the Humanities: Contexts, Controversies and the Future*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Eve, Martin Paul. "Open Access Publishing Models and How OA Can Work in the Humanities." *Bulletin of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, vol. 43, no. 5, 17 July 2017, pp. 16–20. *Wiley Online Library*, doi:10.1002/bul2.2017.1720430505. Accessed 29 Oct. 2020.
- Grimme, S., et al. *The State of Open Monographs*. Digital Science, 10 June 2019, doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.8197625.v4. Accessed 6 Dec. 2020.
- Grove, Jack. "Open-Access Publishing and the Coronavirus." *Inside Higher Ed*, 15 May 2020, www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/05/15/coronavirus-may-be-encouraging-publishers-pursue-open-access. Accessed 29 Oct. 2020.
- Jandrić, Peter. "Postdigital Research in the Time of Covid-19." *Postdigital Science and Education*, vol. 2, 21 Mar. 2020, pp. 233–238. *Springer Link*, doi:10.1007/s42438-020-00113-8. Accessed 6 Dec. 2020.
- Narayan, Bhuvan, et al. "Scholarly Communication Practices in Humanities and Social Sciences: A Study of Researchers' Attitudes and Awareness of Open Access." *Open Information Science*, vol. 2, no. 1, 13 Dec. 2018, pp. 168–180. *De Gruyter*, doi:10.1515/opis-2018-0013.

Ojennus, Paul. "Open Access and the Humanities: The Case of Classics Journals."

Library Resources & Technical Services, vol. 61, no. 2, April 2017, pp. 81–92.

Whitworth Digital Commons, [digitalcommons.whitworth.edu/cgi/viewcontent](https://digitalcommons.whitworth.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://scholar.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1021&context=libraryfaculty)

[.cgi?referer=https://scholar.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1021&context=libraryfaculty](https://digitalcommons.whitworth.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://scholar.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1021&context=libraryfaculty). Accessed 1 Nov. 2020.

Ostherr, Kirsten. "Humanities as Essential Services." *Inside Higher Ed*, 21 May 2020,

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2020/05/21/how-humanities-can-be-part-front-line-response-pandemic-opinion>. Accessed 6 Dec. 2020.

Penny, Dan. "Author Survey Data Reveals Changing Perceptions of Scholarly

Communication and Wider Participation in Open Access." *LSE Impact Blog*, 28

Aug. 2015, [https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2015/08/28](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2015/08/28/author-insights-publishing-humanities-social-sciences/)

[/author-insights-publishing-humanities-social-sciences/](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2015/08/28/author-insights-publishing-humanities-social-sciences/). Accessed 6 Dec. 2020.

Shah, Hetan. "Covid-19 Recovery: Science Isn't Enough to Save Us." *Nature*, vol. 591,

no. 503, 23 Mar. 2021. *Nature.com*, doi: 10.1038/d41586-021-00731-7. Accessed

5 May 2021.

Tavernier, Willa. "COVID-19 Demonstrates the Value of Open Access: What Happens

Next?" *College & Research Libraries News*, vol. 81, no. 5, 6 July 2020, pp. 226–

230, doi:10.5860/crln.81.5.226. Accessed 29 Oct. 2020.

Watkinson, Charles, and Melissa Pitts. "Re-envisioning Humanities Infrastructure."

Inside Higher Ed, 22 Feb. 2021, [https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2021](https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2021/02/22/institutions-and-funders-must-recognize-contributions-university-presses-humanities)

[/02/22/institutions-and-funders-must-recognize-contributions-university-presses-humanities](https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2021/02/22/institutions-and-funders-must-recognize-contributions-university-presses-humanities). Accessed 4 May 2021.

APPENDIX: SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Do you work in open-access humanities publishing or a closely related field?
 - Yes
 - No

[If respondent selects “No,” survey will end automatically]

2. Select the option that most accurately describes your line of work.
 - Scholarly publishing
 - Academic library at a public institution
 - Academic library at a private institution
 - Historical society or museum
 - Other

[If respondent selects “Other”] Please state your line of work. [text entry]

3. What country and/or region do you work in?
 - United States—Northwest
 - United States—Southwest
 - United States—Midwest
 - United States—Southeast
 - United States—Northeast

[If respondent selects “Other”] Please state the country and/or region you work in. **[text entry]**

4. From what you have observed, has the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on open-access publishing in the humanities?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not sure

5. How significant has this impact been?
 - Not significant
 - Somewhat significant
 - Very significant
 - Not sure

6. From what you have observed, in what way(s) has the Covid-19 pandemic affected open-access publishing in the humanities? Check all that apply.
 - Increased funding and/or resources
 - Decreased funding and/or resources
 - Increase in the number of titles acquired and/or published
 - Decrease in the number of titles acquired and/or published
 - Increased inquiries from academic authors
 - Decreased inquiries from academic authors

- Increased interest in open-access humanities publishing on the part of university presses and/or academic institutions
- Decreased interest in open-access humanities publishing on the part of university presses and/or academic institutions
- Changes to the production process
- Further innovation and/or new initiatives for open-access publishing in the humanities
- Failure, cancellation, or suspension of existing initiatives for open-access publishing in the humanities
- Other

[If respondent selects “Other”] You selected “Other.” Please explain.

[text entry]

7. During the pandemic, have you noticed any increased demand for open-access products in the humanities?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
8. Do you think the Covid-19 pandemic will have a lasting impact on open-access publishing in the humanities?
- Yes
 - No

- Not sure

9. In what way(s) do you think the Covid-19 pandemic will have a lasting impact on open-access publishing in the humanities? Check all that apply.

- Increased funding and/or resources
- Decreased funding and/or resources
- Increase in the number of titles acquired and/or published
- Decrease in the number of titles acquired and/or published
- Increased inquiries from academic authors
- Decreased inquiries from academic authors
- Increased interest in open-access humanities publishing on the part of university presses and/or academic institutions
- Decreased interest in open-access humanities publishing on the part of university presses and/or academic institutions
- Changes to the production process
- Further innovation and/or new initiatives for open-access publishing in the humanities
- Failure, cancellation, or suspension of existing initiatives for open-access publishing in the humanities
- Other

[If respondent selects “Other”] You selected “Other.” Please explain.

[text entry]

10. Please use the space below to elaborate on your responses or to share additional observations about the relationship between the Covid-19 pandemic and open access in the humanities. **[text entry]**