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PDXScholar

Library Faculty Publications and Presentations

University Library

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PDXScholar Annual Report 2020

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2020

PDXSCHOLAR ANNUAL REPORT

Portland State University Library

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Like so many this year, the Digital Initiatives Unit experienced significant disruptions caused by COVID-19. In early March, we quickly shifted from working in a shared space in the Library to our kitchens, spare bedrooms, basements, living rooms, and studios. We embraced new remote technologies and invented workarounds in order to continue to fulfill our mission to preserve and distribute the research, scholarship, and creative works produced at Portland State University (PSU). This year we worked diligently to bring online new collections and to highlight research impacting our communities, academics, and personal lives. We used the power and reach of PDXScholar to distribute [COVID-19](#) virus research and information as well as provided a space for PSU researchers to share their work with the community and the world.

PDXScholar continued its exponential growth and registered almost 2.1 million (2,094,796) full text downloads for 2020. This is an increase of approximately 800,000 downloads from 2019, representing a 62% increase. This is due to the discoverability of existing repository content as well as the introduction of new and unique materials and collections. These new materials and collections include student and faculty research, open educational resources (OER), new journal volumes/issues, and video recordings of PSU-sponsored events.

“If you wonder if all of your hard work documenting this history and making it widely available matters, it does. Thank you again”

~Faculty

In 2020, our hosted journals saw dramatic increases in usage with downloads for journal articles increasing by 42%. This can be attributed to editors publishing on timely topics, as well as our work to improve the discoverability of those articles. The identification and harvesting of additional repository content through the Citation Link Automation System for PDXScholar (CLASP) and the passing of the [University's Open Access Policy](#) has increased the number of works available for download. We worked to expand the representation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) across PDXScholar and SelectedWorks profile pages. We curated pages that highlight scholarship on [Racial and Gender Equity](#), and [Climate Justice](#). In addition, we have worked to capture more PSU-sponsored content like speaker series and other campus events in order to make them more accessible to a global audience.

In Memoriam

The 2020 Annual Report is written in the memory of our Dean, Tom Bielavitz. For over 6 years, Tom was the leader of the Digital Initiatives Unit and oversaw our growth and development. An advocate for student success and access, Tom was a leader in the development of our Open Access Textbook publishing program and a champion for expanding open educational resources (OER) efforts campus wide. He was a strong and compassionate leader that is missed by all. Tom passed away in July 2020.

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

2020 was another year for increased growth. Items in PDXScholar have been downloaded over 7,123,281 times since 2013 and PDXScholar contains 27,234 records.

- **2,094,796** downloads
- **62%** increase in downloads
- **3,739** new records added
- **19** new collections created
- **8** Open Educational Resources published
- **6,664** PSU students saved over **\$1 million** in course material textbook cost
- **256** Doctoral Dissertations and Masters Theses published
- **149** University Honors College Theses published
- **566** faculty publications (citations and full text) published
- **28** new SelectedWorks site created
- **1** new hosted journal under development
- **1** new hosted conference

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT PDXSCHOLAR

Below are comments from users submitted to our PDXScholar feedback form.

"A globally warmed greeting from the Philippines!...hoping all of you are well despite COVID + the weather. I am an independent researcher writing-up a paper on at-sea observations of pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*) activity during a 5.3 magnitude earthquake in one of our northern islands. Access you provide to [Courbis \(2011\)](#) gives much background information on an island population of *S. attenuata*. Thank you very much, good holiday cheers and keep safe"

- Researcher

"I am using Iris M. Smith's "[The Contributions of St. Cyprian: Perspectives on Epidemiology and Early Christianity](#)" in my course "Plagues and Peoples in World History" at Saint Scholastica College, Minnesota - a new course just started. The paper was written while she was a student at Grant High School, Portland and is quite good." [Young Historians Conference 2014](#)

— Faculty

"Using [Working Paper No. 37, The American Opium Trade](#) as background material to develop exhibits about the Forbes family and their involvement in the trade. Although much of the material in the paper is available in other books and papers, this paper is laid out in a way that is simple to follow the various relatives and their respective roles in trading opium.

As an academic teaching at a resource-strapped public university in Sri Lanka, I/we do not have access to most reputed journals and their contents on e-resource sites unless they are available free via open access. Greatly appreciate the service provided by you therefore!"

— Faculty, Sri Lanka

"Thanks for having this article accessible. Having reliable sources freely available allows for myself and other students to complete assignments with free and reliable information. Not everyone has the money to pay for articles and it is good that research documents are freely available. Thank you."

— Student, Australia

"Thank you for providing access to Portland State University scholarship to "Others," such as myself. I am not a scholar, nor am I enrolled in a degree program. But I am a lifelong learner who appreciates having access to well-researched and well-written sources of information"

— Researcher

"The first time I heard the slogan, "Whose streets? Our Streets! was in Seattle and I began Googling its origin. This brought me to "[Whose streets? Our streets! Urban social movements and the transformation of everyday life in Pacific Northwest cities, 1990-1999](#)". I send my thanks to Portland State for making this research available to the public."

— Researcher

READERSHIP

GEOGRAPHIC READERSHIP DISTRIBUTION

Users from 85,771 Institutions and 238 Countries downloaded works from PDXScholar.

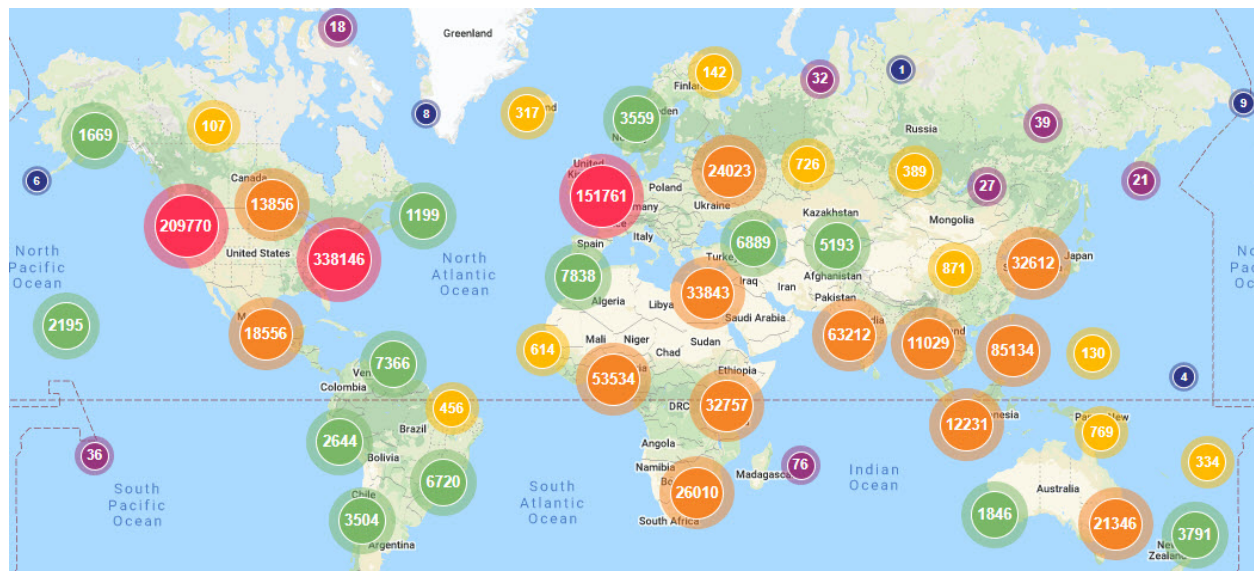


Figure 1. Map of the world representing downloads geographically.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

PDXScholar items were downloaded from 238 countries. The top 10 are listed:

Countries	2020 Downloads	2019 Downloads
United States	977,671	543,466
Philippines	96,872	60,278
India	92,394	46,217
United Kingdom	84,495	60,277
Canada	64,062	35,368
Australia	44,767	35,076
Nigeria	40,453	23,504
China	37,152	23,217
Germany	32,815	18,950
South Africa	31,684	15,488

TOP 10 COLLECTIONS

Collection	2020 downloads	2019 downloads
Dissertations and Theses	836,571	501,978
University Honors College Theses	276,781	150,208
PDXOpen: Open Access Textbooks	188,373	101,071
Young Historians Conference	99,947	52,324
TREC Final Reports	41,463	21,937
Communication in Information Literacy Journal	33,829	23,141
School of Social Work Faculty Publications & Presentations	29,634	19,682
McNair Scholars Journal	26,531	16,220
Urban Studies and Planning Faculty Publications & Presentations	24,005	18,629
Institute for Sustainable Solutions Publications	22,610	21,720

MOST POPULAR WORKS IN 2020

The 25 most-downloaded items in PDXScholar for 2020 represent the diversity in the Library's repository and publishing program. These 25 items have been collectively downloaded over 374,467 times, reflecting the exponential growth in downloads.

Title	2020 Downloads	2019 Downloads
Beginning Japanese for Professionals: Book 1 (PDXOpen)	98,726	66,074
12, Signs of the Apocalypse (Special Collections & University Archives)	40,084	7
#BlackLivesMatter: This Generation's Civil Rights Movement (Undergraduate Honors Thesis)	39,003	15,007
The Political Evolution of Cameroon, 1884-1961 (Master Thesis)	24,013	10,495
EmpoWord: A Student-Centered Anthology & Handbook for College Writers (PDXOpen)	22,367	11,991
Social Media and Self: Influences on the Formation of Identity and Understanding of Self through Social Networking Sites (Undergraduate Honors Thesis)	21,792	12,942
A Phenomenological Study of the Lived Experiences of Parents of Young Children with Autism Receiving Special Education Services (Dissertation)	15,695	5,305
Britain's Colonial Administrations and Developments, 1861-1960: An Analysis of Britain's Colonial Administrations and Developments in Nigeria (Master Thesis)	12,868	8,694
Psychology at a Distance: Examining the Efficacy of Online Therapy (Undergraduate Honors Thesis)	11,324	1,593
Impact of Leadership on Team's Performance (Engineering and Technology Management Student Projects)	10,936	4,620
Basics of Bessel Functions (Undergraduate Honors Thesis)	8,712	5,006

Title	2020 Downloads	2019 Downloads
A Comparison of Education Systems in Nigeria and the United States of America (Master Thesis)	7,271	7,183
Copernicus' Role in the Scientific Revolution: Philosophical Merits and Influence on Later Scientists (Young Historians Conference)	6,450	2,641
Characteristics of Spoken and Written Communication in the Opening and Closing Sections of Instant Messaging (Master Thesis)	6,109	4,665
The Slavic Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile (Faculty Publication)	5,888	279
Uncovering Newton's Laws within a Game of Tug-of-War (Undergraduate Honors Thesis)	5,637	1,251
Linear Regression Analysis on Net Income of an Agrochemical Company in Thailand (Undergraduate Honors Thesis)	5,574	4,015
A Manual for Objective TAT Scoring (Faculty Publication)	5,483	5,297
A Social-Psychological Case History: The Manson Incident (Master Thesis)	4,592	4,523
Techniques for Electronic Resource Management: TERMS and the Transition to Open (Faculty Publication)	4,357	526
Social Control Theory and Delinquency (Dissertation)	4,140	4,258
Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity (Faculty Publication)	3,917	5,324
Newcomer Adjustment During Organizational Socialization: A Meta-Analytic Review of Antecedents, Outcomes, and Methods (Faculty Publication)	3,497	2,959
The Effect of Urbanization and Modernization on Family Structure in Oman (Master Thesis)	3,388	4,708

Title	2020 Downloads	2019 Downloads
What You Should Know About RACISM-20: A Fact Sheet in the Time of COVID-19 (Faculty Publication)	2,698	0

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PROJECTS

CREATING FEATURED COLLECTIONS

CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, PSU faculty and students have been involved in scholarly research to help better understand and manage the virus, while also looking at its impact on our local, national, and global communities. For our part, the Digital Initiatives Unit created the [Coronavirus Disease Research](#) collection to provide a centralized location of scholarship across all colleges, schools, and departments containing published papers by the PSU community.

Among the published work currently held in the collection are titles such as:

- [Analysis of COVID-19 Transmission: Low Risk of Presymptomatic Spread?](#)
- [Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Long-Term Care in the United State](#)
- [COVID-19, Equity, and the Future of Education: A Conversation Between Teacher Candidates](#)

RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY

The [Racial & Gender Equity](#) collection brings together a wide variety of research generated by the PSU community that is centered on the issues of racial justice and gender equity.

Research in this collection includes:

- [What You Should Know About RACISM-20: A Fact Sheet in the Time of COVID-19](#)
- [Emergence in the Strengths and Love of My People to Counter Invisibility for Liberation in the White Academy](#)
- [Working-class Black Women's Role in Building and Sustaining Black Communities in the Pacific Northwest](#)

CLIMATE JUSTICE

The goal of the [Climate Justice](#) collection is to help researchers find solutions to complex climate change problems and recognizes that social justice and climate change are intertwined. Research in this collection includes:

- [Projected Impact of Mid-21st Century Climate Change on Wildfire Hazard in a Major Urban Watershed Outside Portland, Oregon USA](#)
- [Modeling Climate Driven Urban Migration in the United States](#)
- [Mountain Lakes: Eyes on Global Environmental Change](#)

WEBINAR AND SEMINAR SERIES

There was an increase in creation of virtual content via Zoom, podcasts, and radio interviews. In an effort to capture this new content we created several new collections to include:

- [@ This Moment Webinar Series](#) is a series hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. @ This Moment provides a space for PSU researchers to share their work with the community and help provide context for better understanding and responding to this moment in history.
- [Futures Collaboratory](#) is a campus-wide interdisciplinary group of professors, students, and staff exploring possible futures to help PSU be more future-facing.
- [Systems Science Friday Noon Seminar Series](#) currently includes 96 presentations (2009-2020) that cover a wide-range of topics to include agent-based simulation, artificial intelligence, artificial life, genetic algorithms, machine learning, and neural networks. This series provides the opportunity for presenters to share and attendees to become exposed to the latest research from different fields and disciplines.
- [Tag, We're It](#) showcases the breadth and depth of expertise at PSU. For each event in this series, researchers from different disciplines share their unique perspectives on an important issue of our time. Topics include: climate change, immigration, and gender and social change.

NEW DATASETS

New datasets were added to PDXScholar in 2020. The data supports research in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Environmental Science and Management, World Languages, and Transportation Research.

- [Data From: The Role of Bus Stop Features in Facilitating Accessibility](#)
- [Data From: Revisiting TODs: How Subsequent Development Affects the Travel Behavior of Residents in Existing Transit-Oriented Developments](#)
- [Data From: Russian's Most Frequent Words and Vocabulary Instruction](#)
- [Data From: Present and Future Flood Hazard in the Lower Columbia River Estuary: Changing Flood Hazards in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area](#)
- [Data From: Forest Density Intensifies the Importance of Snowpack to Growth in Water-Limited Pine Forests](#)

OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION POLICY

The Head of Digital Initiatives and Scholarly Publishing worked closely with faculty across campus and University faculty Senators to draft and approve on May 4, 2020 the [Open Access Publication Policy](#). The policy is intended to make the faculty's scholarly articles, published in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, available to a wider public. The Digital Initiatives Unit is working with the Digital Scholarship and Scholarly Communications Team in the Library to promote and market this new policy. The Unit is also actively reaching out to faculty to add their author accepted manuscripts to PDXScholar.

CAMPUS WIDE ADVOCACY FOR OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Although we were unable to do a new round OER initiative grants, we continued to make great strides across campus to advance textbook affordability and student success. This is seen through the new [Textbook and Materials Affordability Subgroup](#) of the Affordability Pillar of the Student's First Initiative. This subgroup, chaired by the Head of Digital Initiatives and Scholarly Publishing, was established to meet the requirements of Oregon [HB 2213](#) and [HB 2871](#).

As a member of the Students First Affordability Pillar, The Head of Digital Initiatives and Scholarly Publishing is also working on a proposal with the Office of Academic Innovation (OAI) focused on centralizing the University's student textbook affordability effort through the creation of a zero-textbook-cost degree pathway. The pathway would allow students to complete a degree in its entirety by taking courses that use only free instructional materials.

PUBLISHING: TEXTBOOKS, JOURNALS & CONFERENCES

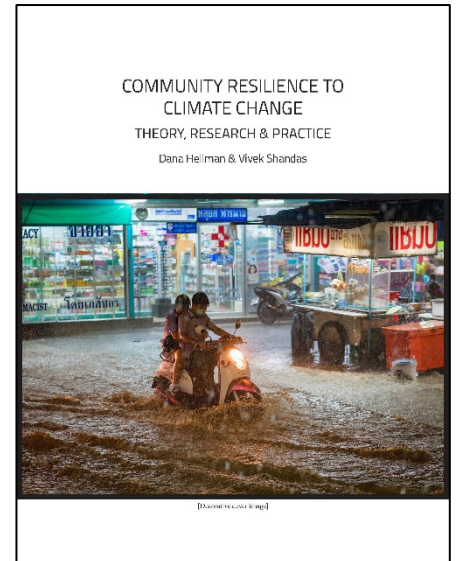
Operating a scholar-led open access publishing program is intensely rewarding work and this year was no exception. We are privileged to be connected with motivated and resourceful authors, journal editors, and scholars that are deeply committed to open scholarship.

PSU AUTHORED OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES AND OPEN TEXTBOOKS

In 2020, we not only published eight new open access textbooks and OER resources but we also started the process of migrating our open textbooks into [Pressbooks](#) in order to encourage others to adapt and adopt our material. Many of the resources published this year were funded last year through our high-impact OER Grant Program.

New books published include:

- [Paranormal Psychology: PSY410](#) by Larry R. Martinez
- [Community Resilience to Climate Change: Theory, Research and Practice](#) by Dana E. Hellman and Vivek Shandas
- [Literary Form and Analysis: Instructional Materials for English 300](#) by Josh Epstein
- [Lectures on Mathematical Computing with Python](#) by Jay Gopalakrishnan
- [Climate Toolkit: A Resource Manual for Science and Action](#) by Frank Granshaw
- [The Balance of Personality](#) by Chris Allen
- [Relativity Lite: A Pictorial Translation of Einstein's Theories of Motion and Gravity](#) by Jack C. Straton
- [OER Guide for WR 227 Instructors: Using Open Educational Resources \(OERs\) in WR 227 Courses](#) by Sarah Read, Jordana Bowen, and Henry Covey



The open access textbooks published in PDXOpen continue to see an increase in downloads and use. In 2020, we reached the milestone of saving 6,664 PSU students over 1 million dollars in course materials.

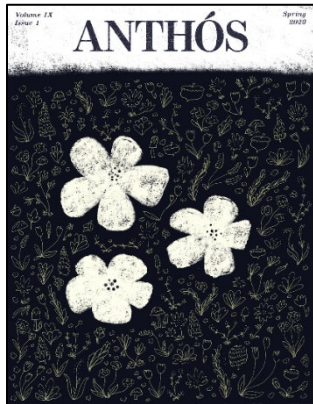
ACCESSIBILITY AND OPEN TEXTBOOKS

In the last several years, we have learned a great deal about digital accessibility and realize that many of our open textbooks were not necessarily designed with that in mind. Through the hiring of an Open Textbook/OER Publishing Assistant, Katy Anastasi, we worked to improve the digital accessibility of already published open access textbooks. Over the course of six months, Katy led a project to develop workflows that focused on remediating

inaccessible open textbooks and established standards through the creation of an [Accessibility Statement Template](#) which we now include in all of our open textbooks.

JOURNALS

[Browse All Journals](#)



Library-supported open access journal publishing flourished amidst the pandemic. In 2020, we extended our services to meet new challenges in support of editors and authors whose lives were disrupted. We offered more video consultations, updated files, and bridged gaps. We continued to reassert our relationship with readers by working directly with authors and editors in support of sustainable publishing and social justice.

Three of five journals released issues in May 2020. The other two hosted journals published in summer and fall, including a [special issue](#) from *Northwest Journal* on educators' critical thoughts and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND NEW JOURNAL

In 2020, we issued a [Call for Journal Hosting Proposals](#) and welcomed proposals from PSU affiliates to migrate existing or publish new journals by completing our [Journal Proposal Form](#). From this call for new journals, we began to work with Vicki Reitenauer and Rhiannon Cates who anticipate publishing their first issue of *Amplify: A Journal of Writing-as-Activism* in June 2021.

Amplify: The Journal of Writing-as-Activism aims to amplify the voices and visions of students, teachers, and community members engaging individually and collaboratively in “writing as activism,” that is, writing that intends to provoke change toward social justice on the individual, collective, social, and/or political levels.



JOURNAL ARTICLE DOWNLOADS IN 2020

Journal article usage hit an all-time high, exceeding 100,000 journal article downloads in 2020. Monthly article downloads increased by 43% with the usage averaging 7,500 articles downloaded per month and hitting the all-time record high of 11,651 in October 2020.

The top five journal articles are published in three of our open access journals:

- *PSU McNair Scholars Online Journal*
 - [Women and Resistance in the African Diaspora, with Special Focus on the Caribbean, Africa, and USA](#) (2,357 downloads)
 - [The Representation of Women in Comic Books, Post WWII Through the Radical 60's](#) (2,159 downloads)
 - [Exotic Dancers Experiences with Occupational Violence in Portland, Oregon Strip Clubs](#) (1,945 downloads)
- *Anthós*
 - [Social Constructions of Childhood: From Not-Yet-Adults to People in Their Own Right](#) (2,044 downloads)
- *Journal: Communications in Information Literacy*
 - [Building a Critical Culture: How Critical Librarianship Falls Short in the Workplace](#) (1914 downloads)

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIA HOSTING

[Browse All Conferences](#)

Conference hosting continued in 2020, although not all annual events were held. Several events went virtual including the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Conference, The Young Historians Conference, and the new [McNair Symposium](#).

The [Young Historians Conference](#) continues to be the most popular conference with 190 research papers and 99,540 downloads in 2020. The top five most popular conference papers in 2020 are all part of the Young Historians Conference.

- [Copernicus' Role in the Scientific Revolution: Philosophical Merits and Influence on Later Scientists](#) (6,540 downloads)
- [Crisis in Education -- The Effect of the Cold War on the American Education System](#) (4,769 downloads)
- [Women of the Scientific Revolution: The Forgotten Scholars](#) (4,742 downloads)
- [Women of the West: Prostitutes and Madams](#) (4,171 downloads)
- [More Than a Misunderstood Religion: Rediscovering Vodou as a Tool of Survival and a Vehicle for Independence in Colonial Haiti](#) (4,149 downloads)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

FUTURE PROJECTS AND GOALS

- Continue expanding representation of women, black, indigenous, and people of color across SelectedWorks/PDXScholar.
- Create policies and procedures to ensure that all new work being added to PDXScholar meets the standards of the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#).
 - Implement accessibility check workflows in our submission upload procedures.
 - Ensure all PDXOpen textbooks meet standards adapted from [BCcampus](#).
- Finalize workflow and procedures with Research & Graduate Studies to demonstrate data sharing compliance requirements.
- Continue working with Northwest Journal of Teacher Education to meet DOAJ criteria.
- Expand the number of journals hosted through a second call for proposals in 2021.
- Publish 6 new open access textbooks.
- Continue migrating our open textbooks to [Pressbooks](#).