The Open Library of Humanities: a Sustainable Scholar-led Model for OA without Publication Fees

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Open Library of Humanities

Megajournal / Multijournal / Scholar-led / Not-for-profit / Collectively Funded

Peer-reviewed research

Free to read online

Permission to re-use

Gold: at publisher/source

Green: institutional/subject repository

Bronze: Available on a publisher website, but not licensed

Gratis: free to read

Libre: free to re-use

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Hybrid environment
(two main economic models)

GOLD OA with Author Processing Charges (APCs)

- Finch report estimated average APC cost: £1500-2000

The subscription model

- Since 1986, subscription costs for academic journals have risen by 300% above inflation.

- In addition to exponentially increased research output over this period this has triggered what is known as “the serials crisis”; the inability of library budgets to keep pace with the prices set by publishers.

Libraries

Insufficient funding to provide all researchers with necessary material

Elsevier: 37% profit with “a revenue stream of £2.06 billion and a profit level of £780 million” in 2012

Researchers

Publishers

Commercial goals do not align with scholarly goals

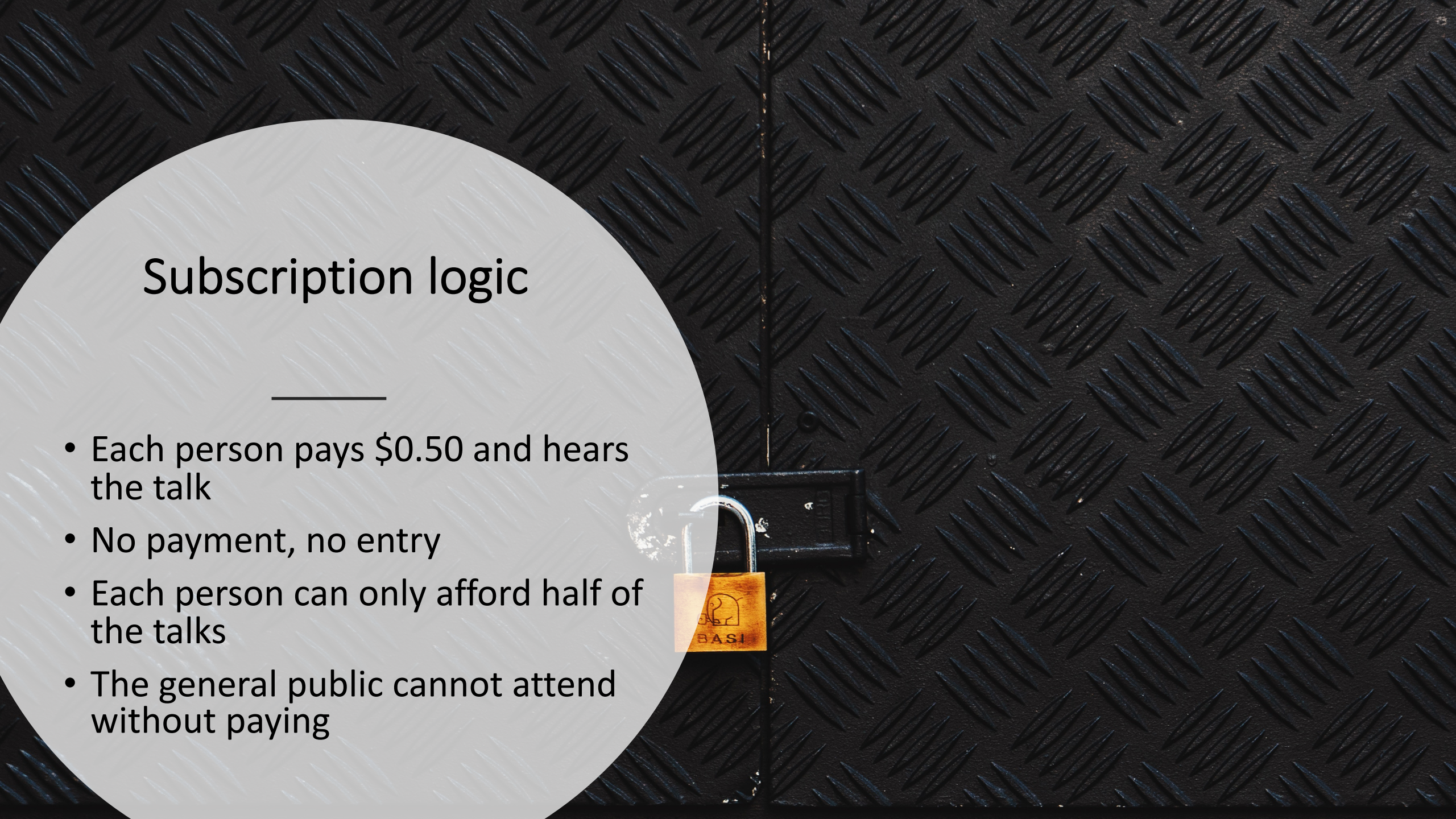
- Frustration and critical stance towards the ongoing commercialization of scholarly publishing
- Growing awareness among academics of open access publishing options
- Sustainability

Imagine that there are 100 people in a room for a talk

- They have $10 each
- The speaker speaks for free
- The venue needs $50 to cover its staff costs
- There are 40 talks per year

Subscription logic

- Each person pays $0.50 and hears the talk
- No payment, no entry
- Each person can only afford half of the talks
- The general public cannot attend without paying



OA with an Article Processing Charge logic

- The speaker pays the full fee ($50)
- The problem is that the speaker only has $10
- The general public and all others can attend

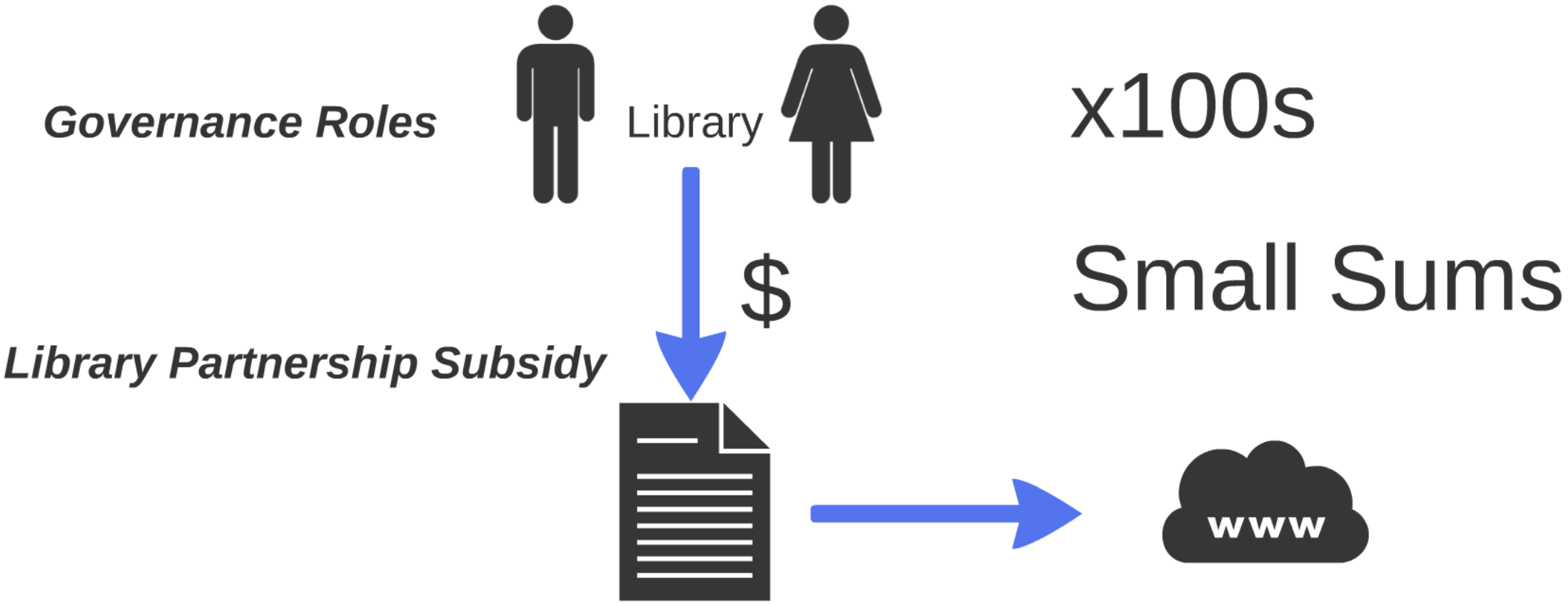
OA with consortial logic

- 5 people attend each talk and pay $10 each
- They let anyone else attend for free
- Everyone can hear 50% of the talks, including the public

This is how OA looks in a dry funding climate

- The distribution of the economics is the most important factor
- APCs do not work well in the humanities and elsewhere

OLH: a consortial business model for OA



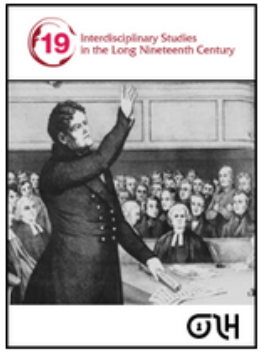
Open Library of Humanities

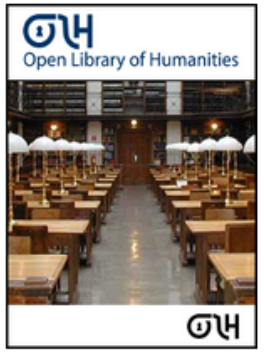
LingOA
Linguistics in Open Access

> 200 Libraries Financially Supporting the OLH

Carnegie Mellon University
The University of Sydney
Duke University
UCL
University of Cambridge
The University of Kansas
Imperial College London
Yale University
Harvard Library
King's College London

26 Journals on or Supported by the Platform





What can I do to support the OLH?

Refer a friend: If your institution is a member of the OLH consortium, you can refer a new member for a mutual 10% discount

https://www.openlibhums.org/refer/

Join the OLH: Shift your perspective from subscriptions, APCs and “big deals” to supporting a diverse collection of scholar-led initiatives, including the OLH

https://www.openlibhums.org/plugins/supporters/signup/

Stand up for the humanities: Become an OLH advocate today!

https://goo.gl/forms/b1uc1pU3EX9WvoAW2

Join the OLH workspace on Slack: https://olhadvocacynetwork.slack.com/messages

How can the OLH support you?

Resources: See our advocacy page for posters, infographics, FAQs and a growing list of other tools

https://www.openlibhums.org/site/about/advocacy/

Learn more about humanities OA: Our Open Insights essay series contains a growing back list of interviews and essays on a wide range of topics

https://www.openlibhums.org/news/tag/Open%20Insights/

Join the debate: Follow our Twitter account (@OpenLibHums) and the #EmpowOA tag for information about twitter chats

https://wakelet.com/@OpenLibHums

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