



Information about OJS

What is OJS?

Open Journal Systems (OJS) is a software for managing and publishing scientific journals.

OJS was developed by the North American Public Knowledge Project (PKP) to improve and expand access to scientific knowledge worldwide, and is mainly used for full Open Access Gold publishing. As open-source software, OJS is continually being developed and adapted by an active open-source community, the code is freely accessible and the software can be used free of charge. OJS is available in more than 20 languages, including German. More than 8,000 international journals use OJS.

The functionality of OJS includes:

- Online appearance of the journal with various display functions & reading tools
- Publication formats: HTML, Pdf and EPUB
- Easy online submission of authors 'and reviewers' contributions
- Administration of all editorial processes, incl. Review procedures by the editors
- Efficient organization of the appraisal process and the layout and correction process
- Management of metadata
- Measures for high visibility of article contributions via metadata interface
- Operation of several OJS journals with a journal installation possible

The tutorial "OJS: A magazine software" generally informs about OJS.

How can OJS be used?

The operation of OJS

The system is operated by a server, which is usually commissioned by a service provider (library or IT organization). The necessary storage capacity depends on the planned scope of the OJS journal. Access to OJS is via an Internet browser on your own workstation, additional hardware or software does not have to be provided for the editors. The software itself can be used free of charge. It is recommended to work together with OJS experts to set up the journal for the first time. Editors and publishers should attend a technical introduction to the functionalities and editorial workflow of the OJS software.

Simple publication and comfortable administration

From submission to appraisal and editing to content composition, publishing and archiving, publishing with OJS is based on a comprehensive process based on traditional editorial and editorial activities, organized in such a way that OJS journals can be independently maintained and managed ,

The [tutorial "Using OJS in Everyday Use"](#) provides an introduction to the various roles and functions in OJS.

What does OJS look like?

Professional and individual design

The layout and design of an OJS journal can be customized. For simple changes of the appearance, eg the adjustment of the journal logo, no comprehensive IT knowledge is required. For detailed customization, CSS files are used. Here, individual elements of the magazine website can be arranged differently, represent their own corporate identity or, for example, use different preset design templates for coloring, font etc. or define one according to individual needs.

Example magazines

[CROLAR: Critical Reviews on Latin American Research](#)

[Survey Research Methods](#)

[027.7 Journal of Library Culture](#)

How much does OJS cost?

The software itself can be used free of charge and the hosting for internal employees and scientists is often provided by many universities and research institutions without internal billing costs. An overview of universities and research institutions offering OJS can be found [here](#).

If the hosting service is offered to external users, the offer is usually chargeable. Some facilities, such as [PKP](#), offer paid hosting for magazines from other institutions.

The service of a hosting facility can vary widely and, depending on capacities, include:

- Hosting & updating the software
- Software implementation
- layout adjustments
- Long-term archiving
- Cataloging and database indexing
- software adjustments
- Editorial support
- domain Registration
- test system
- Marketing & PR

The costs that journal operators incur and the financing options that can be offered by the respective institutions vary from institution to institution. **Due to the high flexibility of the software use, the different composition of editorial teams and the different journal concepts,** it is not possible to provide a reliable cost model for the establishment and operation of an OJS journal.

Sources of funding for running a journal could include resources of the chair / institute, library & IT resources, university resources, banner ads, [article processing charges \(APC\)](#) .