



## Open Research Library: FAQs for Libraries

- **What is the Open Research Library?**

The Open Research Library is an aggregation of peer-reviewed, open access, scholarly monographs which is hosted on the BiblioBoard platform. Hosting makes the user experience consistent across the collection and enables users to maintain a single bookshelf for all of their open access book content. For the library it streamlines workflows and reduces customer service issues. It also provides a single-point of contact if issues do arise. The full collection will be available for anyone to use beginning in October 2019. It is our goal for the collection to be comprehensive and provide readers and libraries a one-stop shop for OA book content. In addition to book content, the platform can also facilitate for video, poster and audio content. The beta-version of the Open Research Library is accessible now at <https://openresearchlibrary.org/home>.

- **How is Open Research Library different from other OA platforms?**

The Open Research Library is not designed to replace other OA platforms. The goal is to give libraries and scholars more options for discovering and accessing OA content. KU has heard repeatedly from libraries and publishers that they would like a better user-experience for OA content, and the launch of the Open Research Library gives stakeholders a chance to invest in a solution that meets their needs. The product development will be driven by pledging institutions.

- **What are some of the unique features of the Open Research Library platform?**

One of the big differences between ORL and other OA platforms is that a user can create an account (without supplying any personal data) to enable bookmarking, note-taking and list making. It will also allow them to sync their activity across devices, including mobile app activity. Users can search across the collection with a simple keyword search and refine the results using facets, or they can perform targeted searches using the advanced search feature which includes the ability to search by subject, author, publisher, and language. The site uses responsive web design and works well regardless of the user's screen size, accommodating traffic from mobile devices. At launch, users will also be able to access the Open Research Library collection through the BiblioBoard mobile apps for Apple, Android and Kindle Fire devices. For people with limited access to internet, app access can be vital.



The platform addresses the fact that digital book readers require more sophisticated technology to support their online needs than do those reading articles, who are generally happy to download a PDF and move on. As the most recent *Affordable Georgia Survey* concluded: "A surprising amount of open-ended responses focused on the efficacy of print versus digital resources, and this may indicate a need for not only a print option, but also more usable digital platforms and resources."

Libraries pledging at the premium level will also be able to take advantage of features to customize the site. These include branding, creating custom collections and controlling the display of content on the homepage.

In 2019, the Open Research Library will be dedicated to Open Access scholarly monographs, but the BiblioBoard platform can also support article, image, audio and video files. So, there is an opportunity to expand the collection to incorporate a wide variety of Open Access content.

- **How does the Open Research Library fit into library workflows?**

We are working to make sure that it is simple for libraries to make the content in the Open Research Library discoverable to patrons. All libraries will have access to MARC records, and the ORL will also be integrated into discovery service systems, including EBSCO's EDS, Primo, Summon and OCLC's Knowledge Base. Because all of the content is hosted on our site, we can ensure links always work and there is one place for trouble-shooting when there is an access or metadata issue.

COUNTER 5 compliant institutional usage statistics will also be available to supporting libraries.

- **What if I am not interested in all of the content in the Open Research Library collection?**

Libraries pledging at the premium level will have the opportunity to refine the collection to better meet its needs on a library-branded microsite.

- **How does the Open Research Library differ from BiblioBoard?**

The Open Research Library is a hosted content collection on the BiblioBoard platform. Libraries and users can freely register and make use of all the content and the basic features available within the Open Research Library environment. For libraries and library consortia using the BiblioBoard platform for other purposes, such as, to host locally licensed content, these users will be able to navigate easily between BiblioBoard and the Open Research Library, but the collections are unique and not duplicative.



- **Does the Open Research Library work with Learning Management Systems?**

Today, we do not offer a specific LMS integration. However, all of the URLs in the Open Research Library are persistent, making it easy to link to specific items or collections from anywhere. Content files can also be downloaded and posted in the LMS without fear since all of the content in the Open Research Library is Open Access.

- **Is there chapter level discovery and access?**

Support for chapter level discovery and access is in development now and will be implemented this summer. Chapter level access will only be available if the publisher provides chapter level files and metadata for the title. Usage reporting and downloading will be at the chapter level too.

- **What about preservation?**

All of the content added to the Open Research Library will be added to the Internet Archive for preservation purposes.

- **What about accessibility?**

Currently, the platform meets WCAG 2.0 Level A standards and many of the Level AA requirements. Our intention is to continue to improve the platform to meet Level AAA compliance in accordance with WCAG 2.0.

- **What platform developments will we see this year?**

- Content additions
- Discovery Service integration with all major providers
- Indexing in Google Scholar
- Free MARC records for all books
- Mobile Applications for Apple and Android devices
- Chapter level discovery and downloading features
- Enhanced homepage design
- Expanded metadata elements in the user interface (ORCID, DOI)
- Usage statistics available through IP Registry
- COUNTER 5 statistics available for supporting libraries

- **What are some longer-term platform development goals?**

- Full-text searching across the collection
- Enhanced annotation features



- Multiple download format options for each title
- Expanded metadata elements in the user interface (FundRef, NERD, etc.)
- Usage statistics visual dashboard
- Metadata enrichment, improving publisher supplied metadata
- Comprehensive coverage of other OA content (journals, video, poster, audio, etc.)

Do you have any questions, require further information or would you like to set up a webinar with us? Contact [libraries@openresearchlibrary.org](mailto:libraries@openresearchlibrary.org) or your usual KU representative.