

# Current Strategic Initiative: Open Access Monograph Initiative

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## 1. How we got to where we are (brief history)

Scholars face growing difficulty in finding publishers for their monographs as academic library budgets shrink and demand for monographs falls. To collaboratively address this problem and increase the presence of humanities and social science scholarship online, the Association of American Universities (AAU), Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and Association of University Presses (AUPresses) launched the [TOME](#) (Towards an Open Monograph Ecosystem) initiative in the Spring of 2017. The initiative advances the wide dissemination of scholarship by humanities and humanistic social sciences faculty members through Open Access editions of peer-reviewed and professionally edited monographs.

University Libraries is one of fourteen [universities](#) committed to participating in the TOME initiative for five years with a target of awarding three \$15,000 publishing grants per year. Over the five years of our participation in this initiative, locally known as [OAMI](#) (OSU Open Access Monograph Initiative), fifteen Ohio State faculty-authored, peer-reviewed university press monographs will be funded and published as Open Access digital editions, available at no cost to any reader.

## 2. Where we are now

The first rounds of funding applications were completed in August of 2018. Four scholarly monographs were selected for funding awards and three subventions were successfully negotiated with university presses and funded. Our second year of application recruitment was launched in the Fall of 2018 and we currently have two funding applications pending.

To date we have had more than ten consultations with Ohio State faculty authors to discuss their monograph projects. During these conversations we have had the opportunity to learn as much from our faculty, as they did about our Libraries services. We have gained valuable insight into their perspectives as scholars and their understanding of, approach to, and goals for scholarly sharing that will inform our future engagements and outreach. As beneficial the conversations have been for us, we also believe the authors have gained an increased awareness of the impact Open Access can have for their work and a more nuanced understanding of author's rights.

3. Is the project/initiative succeeding in meeting its intended objectives? How is success being measured against strategic priorities (measures of success)?

Yes, the initiative is succeeding in meeting its intended objectives. We are opening up long-form humanities and humanist social sciences scholarship authored by Ohio State faculty to the world. We are supporting Open Access peer-reviewed monographs by subvening Ohio State faculty work published by university presses. But measured against the Libraries strategic directions, more important than the quantifiable - the fifteen monographs we will subvene, we are engaging deeply with faculty and their work. We are advancing the conversation of open sharing, of expanding audiences, and of digital scholarship. And we are supporting the rights of our authors.

4. Were the resources allocated for the project/initiative adequate? If not, why?

The resources allocated for the project are adequate.

The funding resources allocated match our commitment to the TOME initiative. Although the funding commitment is a big spend, much of the resources are staff time. The initiative is led by the Scholarly Sharing Program Area with support from the Vice Provost and Director, the Associate Director for Content & Access, the Head of Research Services, the Research Commons, subject liaisons in humanities and humanistic social sciences, Marketing and Communications, the Business Office, and the membership of the Selection Advisory Committee.

We are now at the point in the initiative where will be calling on, and require, strategic support from the Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications.

5. Are there successes/highlights to share?

Yes! We are very much looking forward to 'marketing' the success of this initiative when our first funded monograph is published in July of this year. Our next two funded monographs will be published early next year. Each of the authors we have worked with is eager to tell their story – of how this initiative has enabled the sharing of their work and forms of publication that otherwise would not have been possible. What this initiative means to each of our funded authors speaks volumes more than we ever could. Stay tuned!

6. Is the project/initiative encountering any barriers to success? If so, what?

One challenge for the initiative is getting the word out to Ohio State faculty in a way that resonates with them. In all cases where we have spoken directly to faculty, they commend the goals of the initiative and recognize, and embrace, the value, but in some cases they have misunderstood the communications they have seen about the initiative. Another challenge, although not pervasive, has been negotiating with university presses to meet the criteria of the

initiative. Each participating institution has localized their criteria – which can also be a challenge for the participating presses. With the newly appointed ARL Visiting Program Officer to Advance TOME Open Monograph Initiative, the project leads of the participating institutions are working together to develop best practices as we continue to learn from the first year experience. But these challenges are not barriers to success, they are rather opportunities for engagement with our stakeholders.

7. Is the project/initiative on time? Have you had to alter timelines? If so, why?

The initiative is on track for three funded monographs per year. We are in line with our peers in number of monographs funded to date. In the coming years, there may be less or more funded in each calendar year, but we expect to be on target over the course of the five years. Given the variances of publication schedules, our peers do have TOME monographs published – [twelve](#) to date – where as we do not.

8. Should the Libraries continue investments in this project/initiative? Why or why not?

Yes! The deep engagement we have had with Ohio State faculty members and the opportunity we have to open their scholarship to the world has been worth every penny. Our funded authors, and this initiative, have some amazing stories to tell. But also important, are the conversations we have had with authors whose work is not yet ready for the initiative, or is out of scope for the initiative. Those ‘un-funded’ conversations, afforded by the initiative, are impactful for advancing scholarly sharing and the Libraries strategic directions.