

FJN AGM 2023

Mark C. Wilson (President, Free Journal Network)
23 May 2023





Welcome to FJN

- Started in 2018, legally incorporated in 2020
- Board of Directors has 9 elected members (elections this year)
- Advisory Committee appointed by Board
- **Mission:** support the ecosystem of scholar-controlled, open access journals with no author charges
- Everyone here is a volunteer, with a day job; please offer help and be nice!

FJN Board of Directors

- **Jean-Sébastien Caux** (Infrastructure). Prof. Univ. Amsterdam. SciPost journals.
- **Jamie Farquharson** (Journal rep.). Univ. Strasbourg. EiC Volcanica.
- **Elyse Gustafson** (Treasurer). Exec. Director Inst. Math. Stats. OA Publishing.
- **Matthieu Latapy** (at-large member). Researcher CNRS Sorbonne.
- **Wendy Patterson** (Secretary). Director Beilstein-Institut. OA Publishing.
- **Michael Poss** (Journal rep.). Managing Editor Online J. Math. Optimization.
- **Virginia Steel** (Library rep.). Head Librarian UCLA.
- **Patrick Trettenbrein** (Journal rep.). PhD Student Max Planck Inst. Cognition.
- **Mark C. Wilson** (President). UMass Amherst. Founder FJN.

The Board meets online twice per year and works by email throughout the year.

New people

- **Colleen Cressman** (Harvard Libraries) has offered to assess journals to help them with applications to DOAJ, and this has been useful already. She may also help us become a CrossRef sponsor.
- **Caroline Coward** (JPL Libraries, Caltech) has agreed to join the Advisory Board.
- Of course we have many new members associated with newly accepted journals. It would be good to see some activity on the online forum.

Journal acceptance list

- We currently have 81 accepted journals with 10 applications under review. Welcome to recently accepted journals: Norwegian J. Geology, Peer Community J., Agua y Territorio, Cadernos di Linguistica, J. Theoretical, Computational and Applied Math., Treubia, Psicologica, GEUS Bulletin, Neurons, Behavior, Data Analysis & Theory, J. Systems Research.
- One journal is no longer accepted, since they felt the need to charge “opt-out” APCs.
- Our goal is to have 150 accepted journals, with no reduction in quality.
- You can all help by urging well qualified journals to apply.

Publicity and connections to others

- Our Twitter account @freejournalnet (run by Mark and Wendy) has 1021 followers.
- We try to follow all our journals that have accounts.
- We have signed a letter of support for the CRAFT-OA application to improve infrastructure for Diamond OA journals, and are trying to stay in the loop on cOAlition S and Science Europe initiatives.
- We would like to present formally on behalf of FJN at such venues, but are limited by board member time. If you would like to help, let us know!

Discussions with other groups

- In 2022 I had discussions with the Library Publishing Coalition about them hosting any of our journals who might want it. Discussions came to nothing in the end.
- I presented FJN to the German OA group "scholar.led", 2023-01-13.
- Wendy P. and Jamie F. were at the Science Europe Diamond OA meeting in Zadar last September. This kicked off the DIAMAS Project.
- Wendy and I were at a webinar in the same series in April 2023.
- Wendy and I met Malavika Legge, Program Manager OASPA, 2023-02-28.
- I talked with Nick Lindsay, Director of Journals and Open Access at The MIT Press, March 2023. They want much more money per journal than we could ever supply.

Fundraising report

- We continue to email individual university libraries, asking for 3-year commitments to funding at \$0-10K per year, mostly. I have done very little this year so far.
- Recent support was received from Harvard. Also TIB Hannover has agreed in principle but there are bureaucratic issues. Our goal: \$200K/year, so we can subsidize running costs of our journals.
- We are still discussing with LYRISIS (huge North American library consortium) to apply systematically for funding from all their members, via their OACIP program. It is go slowly but the potential payoff is large.
- Send your suggestions on whom to contact (research funders, charities).

FJN grants

- The Board has again decided to offer at least \$5000 from our current funds as one-off grants to currently accepted journals (only).
- Please fill in the form <https://freejournals.org/applying-for-funding-from-fjn/> , explaining what you want the money for, and the minimum you could accept. **Deadline 15 June 2023.**
- To make the money go further, consider applying for matching funds from your institution.
- We expect applications for specific projects: reimbursement, historical DOIs, improvements to journal website or editorial software, clerical help, etc.
- We can not yet commit to funding any ongoing costs.

Future planning

- I am taking up a substantial editorial role and will likely also be teaching more, so finding time to lead FJN will be a challenge. We should consider possibilities before next AGM, and will start at the upcoming board meeting.
- Elyse and I have to do considerable paperwork for the state of Massachusetts and IRS. Given that we are doing it, we should try to get benefits. For example, we are eligible for charitable donations.