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Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the first bi-annual 2020 newsletter of the Journal of Open Humanities Data! This is our fifth year anniversary, and I would like to share with you some exciting updates from JOHD.

Editor-in-Chief's update

This is the first newsletter I send as editor-in-chief of JOHD so I thought you might be curious to know a bit more about me. I am a Turing research fellow at [The Alan Turing Institute](#) (the UK national research institute in data science and AI) and the [University of Cambridge](#) in the UK. My background is multidisciplinary, as I have a degree in Mathematics and one in Classics from the University of Firenze in Italy, and a PhD in computational linguistics from the University of Pisa, again in Italy. Before going back to full-time research at the Turing and in Cambridge in 2017, I worked in the academic publishing sector, at [Oxford University Press](#) and at [Springer Nature](#). This experience has taught me a lot about the way academic publishing works and I was thrilled to make my contribution when the opportunity of joining JOHD came up. My aim is to bring people together around the mission to disseminate the culture of Open Data and data publishing in the humanities and I am convinced that JOHD will play a major role in this as the way we do research changes.



Since I became editor-in-chief in October 2019, I have been working with the editorial team to update the [scope and mission of the journal](#).

We also have a new [call for papers](#) which we are excited to share with you. Please circulate it with your colleagues and help us spread the word!

Editorial team's update

Mandy Wigdorowitz, a PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge, has recently joined us as Editorial Assistant, and has already made a great contribution to making the journal's web content easier to navigate. If you have any suggestions for improvements to the website, please let us know, we would really appreciate your feedback!



We are currently looking for volunteer copyeditors. For more details, see our [Call](#). If you are interested, get in touch.

We also now have a new [editorial board](#) and would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for accepting to be part of JOHD's mission.

2019 Journal report

JOHD has been publishing continuously since 2015! In 2019 we saw a 20% increase in our website accesses with almost 5,500 page views.

Spotlight on...

I would like to end this newsletter looking at one of JOHD's great publications from 2017, [Annotated References in the Historiography on Venice: 19th–21st centuries](#) by Giovanni Colavizza and Matteo Romanello. Giovanni and Matteo have kindly agreed to share their experience of publishing with JOHD with us, and I hope this will be an inspiration to many of you for your next manuscript submissions, which I am sure will contribute making the world of Humanities data even richer. Here is what they said.

As part of a larger research project [1], we invested substantial resources to create annotated data in order to support the extraction of references from scholarly publications. For us, this was a means to the end of building a fully-fledged citation index [2]. Soon enough, we realized that this annotated data could have been of interest to other scholars too, given the lack of similar resources – an increasingly common situation in many digital humanities projects. Looking for options on where to publish, we found the recently-launched Journal of Open Humanities Data (JOHD). We have to confess we were surprised to find such a well-regarded journal specifically devoted to humanities datasets

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appealing to us.

The submission guidelines were very clear and allowed us to improve the quality of our dataset and relative documentation. During peer review, we received careful and helpful

comments from two reviewers, allowing us to further improve the quality of our paper. Overall, the publication process was rather quick, only 6 months from submission to publication. The result was a dataset paper we are certainly happy with [3]. In summary, we had a very positive experience with JOHD and are still convinced that it fulfills a need in the community. We hope that, in the future, more researchers in the digital humanities community will consider publishing their data. We also believe better visibility can be offered to published datasets, for example by organizing shared tasks or assembling similar data from multiple groups to raise its scope and size. We will definitely consider publishing in JOHD again.

[1] <https://www.epfl.ch/labs/dhlab/projects/linkedbooks/>.

[2] <https://scholarindex.eu/>.

[3] <https://openhumanitiesdata.metajnl.com/articles/10.5334/johd.9/>.

Wishing you a fantastic 2020,
Barbara McGillivray



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