



Celebrating 10 years of JOHD: New Research & Milestones

JOHD Newsletter October 2025

Hello << Test First Name >>,

Welcome to JOHD's second newsletter of 2025! Stay up-to-date with JOHD's latest publications, discover our recent activities, and find out how you can get involved and contribute to JOHD.

We're workshopping a new design of the newsletter and hope that this version is a more streamlined and structured format for you to explore our updates, activities, and opportunities. Let us know what you think by filling out [this short survey](#), and tell us if there is anything else you would like us to include in future newsletters.

If you know someone who would be interested in our activities, please share [this sign-up link](#) to our mailing list. Follow us on [X](#), [WeChat](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#) for more updates. You can now also check out our new [LinkedIn](#) page.

This newsletter was created by Caitlin Wilson and Vesna Wen, with the support of the JOHD team.

Article Highlights

Since our last newsletter, JOHD has published 24 new articles, covering a wide range of topics from the ancient to modern world. [Click here](#) to browse our catalogue and find something that interests you! Here are the top three most popular latest articles:

A Position Paper on AI and Copyrights in Cultural Heritage and Research (EU and UK)

Author: Jörg Lehmann (Berlin State Library), Anna-Maria Sichani (University of London)

Summary: The debate over using copyrighted material to train machine learning models has intensified with generative AI, yet cultural heritage institutions and research libraries remain largely absent from the conversation. Restrictions by major publishers on text and data mining (TDM) hinder access for these institutions and their patrons, including start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises, and cultural sector companies. This paper proposes differentiated solutions to enable TDM on copyrighted digital assets while balancing the interests of rights holders and data users.

[Read the full article](#)



(AI generated)

Irish Folk Tales and Lady Gregory Adaptations

Author: Rachel McCarthy (University College Cork)

Summary: This dataset presents fourteen pairs of English-language Irish folk tales and their adaptations by Lady Gregory, formatted in plaintext for direct comparative analysis. The original tales are sourced from CELT (Corpus of Electronic Texts, University College Cork), and curated via the CASCADE project. Texts are UTF-8 encoded and systematically named to align originals with their versions, supporting reuse in digital humanities, literary adaptation research, folklore studies, and natural language processing.

[Read the full article](#)

Seattle Public Library's Open Checkout Data: What Can It Tell Us About Readers and Book Popularity More Broadly?

Author: Neel Gupta, David Christensen, Melanie Walsh

Summary: This article examines Seattle Public Library's open checkout data (2005–2025) as a lens on reading and book popularity. The authors found that while SPL patrons adopt digital formats more than general consumers, overall checkout patterns closely align with national sales. Comparisons with New York Public Library data revealed both overlaps and regional differences. They conclude that SPL's dataset, though geographically specific, provides a rare and valuable resource for studying readership and cultural trends.

[Read the full article](#)

Author Survey

Earlier this summer we ran a survey on our recent authors asking them to review their experience publishing with JOHD. Overall, we received excellent feedback. Authors overwhelmingly rated themselves as 'very satisfied' with their recent publication experience and found it very easy to submit an article. We received some helpful feedback on the technical aspects of the submission platform which we hope to use to improve the experience for future authors. Many thanks to those who took part in the survey, your insights ensure that we can keep working with new authors with confidence and efficiency!

News

Updates from DH2025

JOHD had a strong presence at this year's *Digital Humanities 2025 Conference*:

- **Victoria Van Hying and Thea Lindquist** (members of the JOHD editorial board) presented their paper on *Building a FAIR data future at JOHD*.
- **Panel on Data Reuse**: JOHD contributed to a panel highlighting the reuse of language data, dataset visibility, and impact, organised by CLARIN ERIC. [Read the summary here.](#)
- **Barbara McGillivray** spoke on multiple occasions:
 - At the CLARIN panel at DH2025.
 - In the panel “*The power of editors in changing scholarly communications*” (LSE Library & ORWG). [Watch the recording here.](#)
 - At the event “*Data created by non-governmental actors: challenges and opportunities.*” [Event page here.](#)
 - At the event “*ITSERR: A Project of Technological and Digital Innovation for Religious Studies.*” [Event page here](#)



Barbara presents at the ITSERR event at the University of Palermo.

Journal Metrics & Impact

JOHD continues to grow in visibility and influence across indexing platforms and in line with the [DORA](#) agreement, committing to the use of a range of metrics to evaluate our publications at the article level.

Highlights from the **2024 reports**:

- **Impact Factor (Clarivate):** 0.36 (Q2, ranked 166/408, 59th percentile)
- **Journal Citation Indicator (JCI):** 0.30
- **Scopus CiteScore:** 0.9 (74th percentile, ranked 46/176) — up from 0.6 in 2023
- **Scimago (SJR):** 0.152 (Q3), h-index 4

Overall, we are very happy with our results and look forward to growing more in the future. If you'd like to help us with this, please feel free to share this newsletter to anyone in your network who you think would be interested in JOHD! If you're curious for more detail, you can explore the [full citation data here](#).

10th Anniversary Conference Review

To mark the 10th anniversary of the JOHD, a special online conference titled A Decade of Open Humanities Data: Celebrating the JOHD Community was held, celebrating a decade of advancing openness and collaboration in humanities research.

The global event took place on Friday, 26 September 2025, in an online format designed to accommodate participants across different time zones. Structured into two sessions, the conference welcomed attendees from the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the Americas. The event attracted over 50 attendees and 40 speakers from institutions all over the world, including University College London, CLARIN ERIC, University of Bologna, British Library, University of Oxford, Hong Kong Baptist University, Open Data Charter, and many more.

Our Editor-in-Chief, Barbara McGillivray, introduced the first session with an overview of the JOHD team and reflecting on 10 years of the journal and her time at the helm. This was followed by a great Editorial Reflection on writing a data paper by Victoria Van Hying who has been a JOHD editorial board member since its inception in 2015.

The first session then included Lightning Talks on topics ranging from ‘Setting Up JOHD’s Platform in 2015’ to ‘Teaching Linked Open Data using Bibliographic Metadata.’ Then followed two Thematic Dialogues between contributors from different disciplinary backgrounds on ‘The practicalities, value, and limits of sharing data in humanities research’ and ‘What reuse looks like in practice, including the conditions that enable or hinder it.’

The second session of the day included Lightning Talks on topics such as ‘Knowledge Graphs for Art Archives: Methods and Tools from the Semantic Lab’ and ‘Refactoring Heretical Scriptures as Normalized Data: Impact and Insights.’ The floor then opened for an Open Forum on the topic ‘What Should Open Humanities Data Look Like in 10 Years?’ led by our own Paola Marongiu.

The event ended with an interactive session led by members of the JOHD team, Michele Ciletti and Mathilde Bru, prompting attendees and speakers to reflect on what open humanities data means for them, ideas for new articles, and insights into the publishing process.



Visualisation created from Miro Board responses during the event.

If you weren't able to join us on the day you can catch up on the sessions which will soon be published on our [Youtube](#). During the interactive session, our attendees and panelists also contributed to a [Miro board](#), reflecting on the sessions and humanities data.

Many thanks to our panel chairs Simone Mahony, Andrea Farina, Victoria van Hying, Paola Marongiu, and Mathilde Bru. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the team at Ubiquity Press who helped with the technical setup and support on the day, namely Jaqueline Barlow and Patrick Higgins.

Lastly, a huge thank you to all who attended and helped us celebrate 10 years of JOHD. We look forward to another decade of open humanities data!

We will be sharing more reflections on the event in a blog post, so keep an eye out for that in the coming weeks!

Team Changes

Caitlin Wilson

I am a PhD student in Digital Humanities at King's College London. My research



combines computational linguistics, user research, and cultural heritage collections as I work with The National Archives to design a semantic search engine for their digital case law collection. I recently joined JOHD as a Newsletter Editor and Copyeditor.

Michele Ciletti

I am a master's student and pre-doctoral researcher in Digital Humanities at the University of Foggia, Italy. My research interests include computational linguistics, classics, network analysis and EdTech. I recently joined the team as a Junior Social Media Editor.



Paola Marongiu

was appointed as Associated Editor as well as Coordinating Editor for the [Language dataset reuse](#) special collection.



Andrea Farina

became Senior Editor and Senior Social Media Editor. He is also the coordinating editor for the Special Collection on Wikidata across the Humanities.



Call for Papers

New special collections alert!

Wikidata across the Humanities

Coordinated by Andrea Farina, this special collection is open for submissions until 26th October 2025. This collection explores the intersections of open humanities data and Wikidata, and welcomes papers that showcase innovative uses, methodological advances, or case studies highlighting the value of linked open data in humanities research. We would love to see your datasets, experiments, and reflections join this conversation. Please contact Andrea if you would like to participate in this special collection.

Benchmarking in Digital Humanities

Guest editors of this special collection: Jenny C.Y. Kwok and Liam Jianliang Gao. Submissions are invited addressing benchmarking in digital humanities, with a focus on reproducibility, evaluation datasets, and systematic comparison of tools. Contributions may include benchmark datasets, workflows, reproducible methodologies, or case studies on comparative evaluation. Papers may also discuss metrics and evaluation standards, ethical and social considerations (such as bias, fairness, and cultural context), as well as FAIR data and open benchmarking.

We invite you to spark the conversation early by submitting a brief expression of interest (or a short abstract of the related research, up to 100 words), by **20 October 2025**. This optional step lets us connect with your groundbreaking ideas sooner. Thank you. Please submit your response [here](#).

Language datasets reuse: opportunities, challenges, and best practices

Guest editors of this special collection: Darja Fišer (CLARIN ERIC) and Francesca Frontini (ILC-CNR). Coordinating editor: Paola Marongiu (ILC-CNR/JOHD). We invite submissions showcasing reuse of mono- or multilingual language datasets across humanities research. Contributions may also describe cases where dataset reuse led to the creation of a new dataset. We welcome papers that present both successful and less successful experiences of language data reuse, with reflection on encountered issues and lessons learned. Position papers on how data creators can maximize the future reuse potential of language datasets are also encouraged.

We welcome your contributions to showcase the very best in open research. Together, let's advance the future of Open Humanities. **Submit your work** [here](#).

Thank you for being part of the JOHD community.

Warm regards,
The JOHD Team



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