Introduction

When UCL Press launched in 2015 it was the UK’s first fully open access university press. Just five years later, UCL Press has published over 140 open access monographs and has a portfolio of 13 OA journals. By making its outputs freely available online, they are being accessed by readers all over the world and UCL Press is now celebrating the milestone of having surpassed three million global downloads as it approaches its fifth birthday.

During the last five years, the open access landscape has changed significantly. More funders have announced open access mandates for works resulting from research they have funded, more university presses and scholarly publishers are publishing open access monographs in ever greater numbers, new open access presses have launched, new platforms and initiatives for supporting open access have been set up, and more grants have been awarded to coalition groups and presses to further open access initiatives.

In such a fast-moving landscape, it is vital to have data to demonstrate the benefits of open access to the scholarly community. By sharing the global dissemination data from its open access publishing activity over the last five years, UCL Press hopes to inform and inspire ongoing open access developments. This short brochure provides headline figures, author stories and testimonials that celebrate some of UCL Press’s achievements since its launch.

“Open access is a revolution because it enables publishers to reach a new, global audience. It means that important medical textbooks and radical interdisciplinary approaches to tackling health crises such as covid-19 can be accessed by the people that need them regardless of where they live in the world. We believe that open access is the future of scholarly publishing.”

Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost for UCL Library Services
UCL Press launched its first publications in June 2015. Its inaugural title was *Temptation in the Archives: Essays in Golden Age Dutch Culture* by historian Lisa Jardine.

Since then:
- UCL Press has published over **140 open access books**, with the programme of new titles rising to **50 a year**
- The number of **OA journals** published has **increased to 13**
- The Press hosts **nine OA student journals**
- In 2020 it launched a new interdisciplinary journal, **UCL Open: Environment**.

UCL Press has demonstrated the success of a model that seeks impact and visibility over revenue generation, and that reaches global audiences not previously considered possible for scholarly books and journals via traditional sales models.

- Over three million book and journal downloads
- Over 240 countries and territories reached with UCL Press content
- Over 140,000 journal article downloads
- The top five countries in terms of downloads are USA, UK, India, Canada, Germany
- The most downloaded title, *How the World Changed Social Media*, has had almost 400,000 downloads since March 2016; and been translated into four languages that have achieved over 7,000 additional downloads.
- *Textbook of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* – has received over 80,000 downloads in almost 200 territories, including India, China and Iraq
- *Knowledge Sovereignty Among African Cattle Herders* – over 8,000 downloads in over 130 countries
- Our content ranges from History, Anthropology and Archaeology to the Environment, Area Studies, Literature and Translation, and Dutch Studies.
Delivering global impact through open access

UCL’s motto is ‘London’s Global University’, a phrase that reflects UCL’s key global strategies: to address global challenges through disciplinary excellence and distinctive cross-disciplinary approach, and to deliver global impact through a network of innovative international activities, collaborations and partnerships.

UCL Press delivers these strategies through the extensive dissemination of its high-quality, peer-reviewed open access books and journals on platforms around the world, which has led to downloads in over 240 countries. Research is freely available to readers around the world, irrespective of their ability to pay.

UCL Press book content is disseminated widely to specialist open access platforms, such as UCL Discovery, JSTOR, Google Play, Google Books, OAPEN and Worldreader, to ensure maximum discoverability.

UCL Press journal articles are indexed in the relevant repositories and search engines – including EBSCO, Google Scholar, UCL Discovery and Portico Digital Archive.

UCL Press books and journals have been accessed in over 240 countries and territories worldwide. Top 10 countries by download figure:

1. USA Over 750,000
2. UK Over 300,000
3. INDIA Over 120,000
4. CANADA Over 95,000
5. GERMANY Over 75,000
6. CHINA Over 70,000
7. AUSTRALIA Over 55,000
8. PHILIPPINES Over 48,000
9. NETHERLANDS Over 40,000
10. NIGERIA Over 37,500

UCL Press books and journals have also been downloaded in territories from Estonia, Nepal, Iraq, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Kuwait, Benin to Mozambique.

Figures on this spread, and throughout catalogue, correct at April 2020.
How our books and journals address global challenges

Many of the books and journals published by UCL Press address the major challenges facing society today: the environment, food shortages, water resources, global industry, urban development and housing, refugees, social media, health, immigration, politics and education. By making the latest research on such topics freely available, UCL Press is contributing to improving understanding of these complex topics.

**Brexit**

**Brexit and Beyond**
Over 100,000 downloads in over 175 countries: ‘[Brexit and Beyond] fulfils its goal of demonstrating that Brexit has been a critical juncture for scholars and policymakers to “rethink the futures of Europe”, while exploring different types of scenarios and options, some of which have not been discussed before.’

*LSE Review of Books, 2018*

**Europe and the World**

*Europe and the World* is a fully open access, peer-reviewed journal that aims to contribute to legal scholarship on the place of Europe in the world. It has over 7000 article downloads. Recent Special Issues include, “EU External Relations After Brexit”.

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**The environment**

**UCL OPEN ENVIRONMENT**

**Education**

**Urban development and housing**
Marketing – making an impact

UCL Press works collaboratively with its authors to achieve visibility and reach across a range of outlets.

Reviews

‘McCorristine’s is an impressive and often enjoyable study of the supernatural in 19th-century Britain and the Dominions’
The Spectral Arctic, 2018, Times Higher Education

‘Ancient Knowledge Networks is a study of the history of knowledge that restores context to text – an invaluable re-evaluation of the sources to the modern scholars of Assyria and Babylonia.’
Ancient Knowledge Networks, 2019, History Today

‘Individually and as a group, the essays are beyond reproach, models of subtle and sympathetic analysis.’
Botticelli Past and Present, 2019, The Art Newspaper

‘Being Young, Male and Muslim in Luton is barely 100 pages, yet it packs a powerful punch, skilfully combining facts, theory, and description to provide insight into the reasons why third-generation young Muslim men combine their Islamic faith with everyday provincial “Britishness”.’
Being Young, Male and Muslim in Luton, 2019, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute

‘A scholarly and thoroughly researched book that unpicks the context behind many of the foremost examples of social cartography... and reveals how the layout of cities can exacerbate or ameliorate social ills.’
Mapping Society, 2018, LSE Review of Books

Social media

With nearly 8,000 followers, our Twitter account allows us to share news about publishing activity and engage with our authors and communities.

UCL Press and author awards

UCL Press, Winner UCL Brand Ambassador 2017
Vanessa Castán Broto, co-editor of Participatory Planning for Climate Compatible Development in Maputo, Mozambique, Philip Leverhulme Prize 2016.
Research for All, UCL Provost’s Award for Institutional Leadership, 2019.
Author stories

‘I am a Professor of Ancient History, but I’m also interested in the modern Middle East, and particularly Iraq. One of the things I’m most interested in is the ways in which people produce and use knowledge – how it is moved around, who has access to it and who controls it. Precisely because of these research interests I was very keen that Ancient Knowledge Networks was available open access.

As a historian of Iraq one of the main challenges is that Iraq has been very isolated from the rest of the world… my colleagues in Iraq find it really difficult to access research about their own country, and even if they can access it it’s very expensive. So the chance to disseminate my work widely so that anyone in the world can access it has been incredibly important; as has the licensing arrangement, that means it can be translated into languages that make it accessible to people wherever they are in the world.’

Professor Eleanor Robson
Author of Ancient Knowledge Networks

‘For our particular project, ‘Why We Post’, UCL Press was simply the perfect answer to a key question. We had already committed to open access… and wanted what I think of as “genuine open access”, which inevitably means publication being taken back into the university system and thereby saving huge sums of money for libraries.

I have published 39 books and was particularly impressed by the fast turnaround [at UCL Press] from submission to final manuscripts. We are happy that there are also relatively inexpensive paperbacks available, for those who prefer physical books. But if I was to pick out one particular achievement which matters to an anthropologist it is that our books are being read in over 200 countries with thousands of downloads recorded for countries as diverse as Peru, Mexico, Tanzania, Japan and Indonesia.’

Professor Daniel Miller
Author of Social Media in an English Village and co-author of How the World Changed Social Media in the ‘Why We Post’ series

‘For me, open access was really crucial. First of all, the project that the book evolved from was publicly funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council so it felt only fair that a publicly funded project should have a fully accessible book. Secondly, the book deals with public museum collections, which are under increasing scrutiny at the moment to be transparent about where their collections are from, and how they got there. So I felt it was a very timely way to contribute to that discourse and discussion.

Another key point for me is that these debates are moving swiftly, so publishing open access means there is an immediacy about the availability of your content. Finally, a lot of what I discuss in the book deals with colonialism, and the legacies of empire – and the way in which Western scholarship has benefited so much from that. So this was one small way for something to be free, and not hidden behind a paywall.’

Dr Alice Stevenson
Author of Scattered Finds

‘This book being available open access is a major move. I work predominantly in the Global South, and the cases in the book are from countries where the prices of traditional print academic books can be equal to a month’s salary. So having it available open access provides academic knowledge to countries like China, Indonesia or Ghana (in the Global South) who wouldn’t traditionally have access to this type of research.

The book was co-published with the ‘UN Food and Agricultural Organisation’ and aims to bridge the gap between academia and policy. So far we have seen the book listed on academic reading lists, but importantly the research in it has helped in shaping the UN’s “New Urban Agenda” – which, for the first time, integrates food into urban planning. Therefore, we are very pleased with its impact in both arenas.’

Professor Yves Cabannes
Co-editor of Integrating Food into Urban Planning
UCL Press has a portfolio of thirteen open access scholarly journals covering the fields of architecture, education, environment, history, Jewish studies, laws and literature. Published on the ScienceOpen hosting and discovery platform, these journals publish cutting-edge research in their field.

Particularly topical is the journal *Europe and the World: A Law Review* – in the Brexit era, understanding the complexities of Europe’s relationship with the rest of the world has become of critical importance.

*Research for All* delivers a new concept in educational research, that supports public participation in research and its publication, it won the *UCL Provost’s Award for Institutional Leadership* in 2019.

In January 2019, UCL Press launched *UCL Open: Environment*, a new open scholarship journal publishing high-quality inter- and multi-disciplinary research across all aspects of environment-related subjects. Operating dually as an open access e-journal and a dedicated preprint server operating open peer review, the entire publishing process is accessible, transparent, accountable and fast.


**Editor in Chief:** Professor Dan Osborn, Chair of Human Ecology, Earth Science Research, UCL, UK.
Focus on student resources

Student journals

UCL Press undertakes a range of student engagement activities, including a student journals service, providing a hosting platform and guidance for students to run journals. The platform currently hosts nine student journals in the fields of archaeology, art history, biological sciences, East European studies, laws and publishing studies. This activity gives students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in scholarly publishing, which can contribute to their studies and future careers, whether in academia or industry.

JOURNALS: Bioscience Horizons, Interscript; Moveable Type; Object; Papers from the Institute of Archaeology; Slovo; UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence.

Textbooks

UCL Press also aims to publish a number of textbooks each year. Making textbooks freely available greatly contributes to the student experience, and UCL Press has seen high demand for the textbooks it has published.

Innovation

Certain types of research lend themselves to more innovative publishing formats, and UCL Press has developed a platform to allow researchers to publish research in a variety of media, in a non-linear format that can be added to over time. A BOOC (Books as Open Online Content), features videos, podcasts and blogs, as well as scholarly articles, published under a broad theme.

Case Studies in Perioperative Medicine

Each of the case studies in this resource is supported by video, infographics and extra support.
UCL Press book publishing processes

From commissioning and production to marketing and sales, UCL Press offers a full range of scholarly publishing support to its authors, to ensure its books meet the highest standards and are disseminated widely throughout the world in both open access and print form. UCL Press has a team of 10 staff, all of whom have a wealth of publishing experience.

UCL Press publishes books by both UCL and non-UCL authors. It charges a BPC starting at £5000 to non-UCL authors and also offers a waiver scheme for up to five non-UCL authors (each year) to publish with UCL at no charge. UCL Press encourages submissions for monographs from all subjects, and has developed strengths in anthropology, archaeology, architecture and urban studies, education, environment and sustainability, history and social studies in particular.

Proposal and submissions process
• Submit book proposal to our commissioning editors, who work with you to develop your proposal
• At least two independent peer review reports are commissioned for each title
• Editorial Board reviews proposal and peer review reports.

Production
• All books go through professional copy-editing, typesetting and proofreading
• UCL Press publishes most books within a six month production schedule, from receipt of final approved manuscript
• Professional cover design
• Produced in open access, print and ebook formats.

Marketing
• Work with open access platform partners to ensure that UCL Press books reach their full potential on global dissemination platforms such as Discovery, JSTOR, Google Books, OAPEN
• Comprehensive information fed to sales agents, distribution partners and trade customers
• Books included in key publications, including the bi-annual UCL Press catalogue
• Optimised web content for all books
• Representation at relevant conferences
• Blog posts and social media posts
• Copies sent out for review
• Print copies sold through the book retail trade, including Amazon, chain bookstores, library suppliers and independent bookshops
• Print copies are distributed in North America via Chicago University Press.

Society memberships
UCL Press is a member of the following professional organisations:
• AEUP (Association of European University Presses)
• ALPSP (Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers)
• AUP (Association of University Presses)
• IPG (Independent Publishers Guild)
• LPC (Library Publishing Coalition)
• OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association)
• OPERAS (Open Scholarly Communication in the European Research Areas for Social Sciences and Humanities)
• PA (Publishers Association)

For more information: https://www.uclpress.co.uk/pages/publish-your-book-with-us