

- I. May 14, 202
- II. Open Access Editorial Board
- III. Kathleen DeLaurenti, Paul Carey, Morgan Davis, Matthew Vest
- IV. Board Action Required – Feedback on IA Proposal
- V. Brief Summary of Activities

Backlist Titles and the Internet Archive

Previously, the board had approved a proposal to digitize our backlist titles. Before COVID, we were in conversations with UCLA about possible support from some one-time open access funds available. Because of COVID, that opportunity has changed.

Recently, Kathleen spoke with Chris Freeland at the Internet Archive. They are interested in partnering with us to create an online collection of our backlist titles. These titles would exist in an OA collection like the JHU Women and the Book collection available here:

<https://archive.org/details/womenofthebook>

The OA Editorial Board supports moving ahead with IA on this initiative for a few reasons:

- Quality scanned editions would be openly available
- MLA would be able to make additional decisions on access platforms or archival platforms for the digital files
- Continues to support the IA's work collaborating with traditional libraries
- No cost to MLA for digitization and hosting

The OA Editorial board seeks approval to move forward with this project over the summer. If the board approves of this approach, we would also need additional guidance from the board on how they would like us to discuss this with authors of backlist titles. While we are certain few if any authors negotiated to retain rights, we do want to make a good faith effort to uncover any situations where rights may rest with authors before moving ahead with these 45 titles.

Publication Update

The Public Domain Song Anthology print copies have all been sent to libraries and individual donors. Due to COVID, a number of copies were returned to sender at Peabody and are being re-sent on notification of availability.

The PDSA has been receiving exceptional traffic on the Aperio site. To date, the full book has been downloaded 2,898 times, however, the individual sets of files have seen 107,054 downloads, pointing to the value of the multi-format release. Full metrics are available online: <https://aperio.press/site/books/10.32881/book2/metrics/>

The OA Editor also collaborated with the sub-committee of the Cataloging and Metadata Committee to advise in decision making and hosting for a DACS supplement titled *Archival Description of Notated Music*. Hosted on the Humanities Commons CORE site, the document has had 95 downloads since publication 7 months ago. This is wonderful traffic in a short time for a very specialized publication.

With this project winding down and COVID response planning easing at many of our institutions, the editorial board looks forward to turning our attention in the coming year to the backlist title project, creating a solid web presence, and finalizing the proposal submission process.