

Poacher turned gamekeeper: Survival of a niche librarianship journal in the age of open access – the Art Libraries Journal (ALJ) / Da incendiario a pompiere: sopravvivenza di una rivista di nicchia nell'era dell'Open Access - The art Libraries Journal

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The debate about journal pricing and the increasing portion of any library's budget that must be allocated to subscription costs is well-known in the library profession.

At first glance, this inflation does not affect humanities and arts journals to the same extent as medical titles. However, if multi-disciplinary universities must allocate an everincreasing part of their budgets to pay for essential medical journals, it is more likely fringe arts or humanities titles will be cut.

Arts journals must remain competitively priced to survive, which usually means reducing publishing costs. In 2015, the Art Libraries Journal reviewed its publishing arrangements in favour of collaboration with a commercial publisher, a decision that felt, to the editor, like a betrayal of librarian colleagues. The reality is it may have saved the journal, by helping to broaden its exposure beyond specialist art libraries.

Erica Foden-Lenahan has been an art and special collections librarian in both museums and art colleges for 20 years. In 2013, she was appointed editor of the Art Libraries Journal and since 2016 has been the librarian at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe in Germany.

In addition to a MA in library studies, she holds a diploma in book conservation.