

Editor's Note

This special issue of *Art Libraries Journal* is about Open Access to research in arts and design, and how arts librarians can and do contribute to Open Access for the arts.

As Open Access becomes part of the landscape of research and scholarly communications, librarians involved supporting researchers and in providing access to primary research in arts (whether text or practice-based) are increasingly called on to support this important change in scholarly communications. Despite the prominence and popularity of Open Access (featuring on the front pages of national newspapers, debated at the highest levels of government, and pervading the scholarly press) there are relatively few resources tailored specifically to arts research and arts librarians supporting research, and those that exist are becoming outdated.

The issue is opened with Watkins' article, an introduction to the principles of Open Access,

and why arts librarians should participate, from a North American perspective. There is a briefing on licensing for open access resources from Tate; other articles provide specific instances of arts librarians working for OA, with case studies from institutions in Europe and Australia; and finally there is a contribution from a digital humanities researcher attempting to access open arts resources.

Working for Open Access within a paradigm of scholarly communications devised by and for the sciences can be an isolating experience. In this issue we hope to raise awareness of OA, share sources of information, help forge networks between those of us working in this area, and support future initiatives.

Stephanie Meece

Guest Editor, Art Libraries Journal