

# Dublin Business School Library

Supporting  
research and  
scholarly activity

Jane Buggle

Deputy Librarian  
DBS Library  
Dublin Business School  
[jane.buggle@dbs.ie](mailto:jane.buggle@dbs.ie)

Alexander Kouker

Research Librarian  
DBS Library  
Dublin Business School  
[alexander.kouker@dbs.ie](mailto:alexander.kouker@dbs.ie)

Twitter handles:

[@DBSLibraryTwits](https://twitter.com/DBSLibraryTwits)  
[@SAHJournal](https://twitter.com/SAHJournal)  
[@libfocus](https://twitter.com/libfocus)

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*'All students must have access to teaching that has been kept up to date and relevant through scholarship, research and professional development' (Higher Education Strategy Group, 2011, p. 11).*

## Introduction to DBS

Dublin Business School (DBS) is the largest independent third-level college in Ireland, with over 9,000 students. It offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, diplomas and professional accountancy and executive education programmes. Disciplines covered include arts and humanities, business and law. All framework programmes are validated by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), the state agency established by the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 with a board appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills (Government of Ireland, 2012).

## Research culture

DBS has a vibrant and rapidly expanding research culture. The library provides a number of supports to underpin this and collates and records the scholarly activity of every faculty member. Institutional research is also disseminated via the DSpace institutional repository, eSource (Dublin Business School, 2017). DBS was the first academic institution in Ireland to acquire Elsevier's PlumX, an Altmetrics platform which captures the immediate impact of faculty members' scholarly output, (download statistics, usage, social media mentions as well as traditional Scopus citation metrics usage). Altmetric services can be especially beneficial to younger researchers. Kwok points out that 'Altmetrics enable scientists to see ripples generated by their research that might otherwise go unnoticed. Individual researchers can try to track buzz on their own, but data-aggregation and updating services make it much easier... The reports can even suggest potential collaborators or journals' (Kwok, 2013, p. 492).

DBS Library has a dedicated Research Librarian who provides consultancy on peer review publishing, bibliometrics, copyright, research funds, open access and more, via one-to-one sessions and faculty workshops. The library is represented on the DBS Research Committee. It also arranges relevant research support talks by bringing in external guest speakers such as Rita Ward (<http://www.horizon2020.ie/team-member/rita-ward/> [accessed: 8 March 2017]), Enterprise Ireland, who spoke on the COST Actions fund, and Dr John Donovan (<http://www.dit.ie/researchandenterprise/meettheteam/staffprofiles/drjohndonovan/> [accessed: 8 March 2017]), Head of Research at DIT and Chair of the European Research Managers and Administrators Association, who spoke on the Horizon 2020 programme.

There are a number of other research agents within the institution who are also making a significant contribution to research activity. The DBS Research Committee oversees the awarding of research scholarships that provide faculty with paid hours specifically for the purposes of research. The research outputs of these scholarships are presented at the annual DBS Research Day and are archived on eSource (Dublin Business School, 2016). Faculty from other institutions are invited to attend the day in order to facilitate research collaborations.

More recently, the library has been involved in additional projects to further enhance the research environment in DBS. As part of its new website, the library launched Research@Dbs.ie pages, which outline its research supports, with an emphasis on open access publishing (Kouker, 2017). The library publishes a peer reviewed open access journal, *Studies in arts and humanities journal* (<http://sahjournal.com> [accessed: 8 March 2017]) and will shortly launch a journal in the area of business: *DBS business review* (<http://dbsbusinessreview.ie> [accessed: 8 March 2017]).

## Library publishing

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In recent years libraries have begun to play a much more active role in scholarly open access journal publishing because they possess the skillset and infrastructure that enable them to offer comprehensive services (Buggle, 2016; Walters, 2012; Mullins *et al.*, 2012). There are examples of highly evolved and successful models in the USA, where academic libraries operate as publishers and manage complex publication and post-publication activities. An example of this is Michigan Publishing (<https://www.publishing.umich.edu/> [accessed: 14 March 2017]), which is a division of the University of Michigan Library (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/> [accessed: 14 March 2017]). Its activities are wide-ranging and include the hosting and publishing of monographs and journals, rights management, developing digital publishing models, digital preservation, as well as publishing and copyright consultation (Michigan Publishing, 2017). Charles Watkinson, Associate University Librarian for Publishing, University of Michigan, believes the benefits to the library of involvement in publishing lie in increased visibility and understanding of library services: 'The library is invisible to many faculty members who do not realise when they access e-resources from their offices that librarians have made all this possible. Providing services like publishing makes the library relevant to their work in new ways, and an open access approach amplifies the impact of their research... The library is a logical place to coordinate all this work and leverage central services to maximize its impact' (Watkinson, 2016).

## Journal publishing at DBS Library

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DBS library started its journey into publishing in 2014. During the course of a carefully planned liaison exercise, DBS Arts Faculty (<http://www.dbs.ie/courses/arts> [accessed: 17 March 2017]) was invited to collaborate in the creation of an open access academic journal publication with a view to opening up interdisciplinary discourse, whilst at the same time breaking down conventional academic hierarchies and boundaries. The vision was to publish high quality peer reviewed papers by undergraduate and postgraduate students alongside those of faculty (Kouker and Murphy, 2015). The outcome of this activity led to the founding of the Studies in arts and humanities journal (SAH), a bi-annual serial publication, which has to date published four issues. SAH is discoverable at article level using DOIs; it is registered with the DOAJ (DOAJ, 2017) and indexed by EBSCO Humanities Source Ultimate (EBSCO, 2017).

SAH journal goes beyond establishing interdepartmental scholarly collaboration opportunities between faculty and the library. It fosters cross-institutional and international relationships, cooperation and collaboration. The journal has reached out to individuals from other institutions, including Dublin Institute of Technology, University College Cork, Dublin City University, Maynooth University, University of Limerick, University of Ulster and Bournemouth University, among others, who have joined the journal's Editorial and Advisory boards. As a result, internal and external library liaison activities now take place in a more collaborative and trusted mutual-interest context (see equivalent collaborations for research and training in text encoding (Green, 2014). A further knock-on effect is that working relationships between DBS librarians and faculty have become more creative and dynamic.

SAH journal enjoys the support of an Advisory Board. Its role is to offer strategic advice to the editorial board on matters around the journal's publication cycle (Berger, 2017). Membership consists of individuals with an established track record in academic publishing. In February 2017, SAH journal held its first annual Advisory Board Meeting. The lively open-forum discussion considered how to build brand identity, approaches to obtaining submissions, marketing, as well as opportunities to secure sustainable funding, since the journal operates on the diamond open access model (Fuchs and Sandoval, 2013).



The library's selling points to all journal participants are:

- an organic and collaborative business approach
- full participatory equality around decision making with regard to the journal's scope and ongoing development
- an opportunity to expand existing and develop new skills for all involved in order to generate professional satisfaction and benefit career prospects (Holland *et al.*, 2014; Pain, 2008).

SAH journal has published a broad range of content in its first four issues. The mix of faculty, practitioner, undergraduate and postgraduate peer reviewed works has been evident throughout, as has the publication of original poetry, plays and artworks. Interviews with a leading historian, an art activist and a leading producer have featured. Articles have covered diverse topics, ranging from Environmental Sustainability and Contemporary Film Production, the Psychology of Disgust, Social Ecology and Aesthetic Criticism, to the Dissenting Voices in the Political Commemoration of the Easter Rising. An experimental film has been published along with a contextualising piece.

An example of a successful scholarly collaboration project in the form of a staff-student co-publication, 'Patrick Pearse: Psychobiographical reflections on an enigmatic, paradoxical personality' (Orr *et al.*, 2016) was published in the Special Issue on the 1916 Easter Rising. Six students and their lecturer (P.M. Orr) co-wrote and eventually published this paper in SAH journal. Student authors in particular have the opportunity to develop transliteracy skills through the intersection of scholarly communication and information literacy. Transliteracy is concerned with mapping meaning across different media rather than developing particular literacies about various media. It is not about learning text literacy, visual literacy and digital literacy in isolation, but about the interaction among all these literacies (Ipri, 2010, p. 532).

SAH journal copy-editors, layout-editors, proof-readers and marketing and events teams are all volunteers, including students, who offer their time and expertise to further hone skills and experience and to contribute to the continuing success of the publication. The journal offers the opportunity to apply skills in a real world context. SAH journal holds occasional events as well as a launch event for each issue. To date, public interviews (Director Jim Sheridan; the creators of *Love/Hate*) have been held, as well as a screening of the documentary *The Killing\$* of Tony Blair, followed by a live Q & A with its Director-Producer, George Galloway.

SAH journal has achieved its vision of becoming an international journal, with content originating in Ireland, the UK, Italy, the USA, Taiwan and Australia to date. Unsolicited manuscripts have been received and word appears to be spreading. To celebrate the recognition of the Irish Traveller Community as an ethnic minority in Ireland, Volume 3, Number 2, will be a special issue on Minorities and Indigenous People. The flavour of that issue will be truly international.

#### Future developments

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The launch of the DBS business review by DBS Library is planned for 14 September 2017. The journal will be an annual publication and will mirror the ethos of SAH journal. DBS Library is also in the process of establishing an open access journal-publishing press and is currently working on a proposal to form a coalition of Irish open access journal publishers to promote high quality open access publishing across academia.

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