

JULY 16, 2025

Aid to Scholarly Journals : September 2025 competition



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada 

Presentation Outline

- Overview of funding opportunity
- 2025 Updates
- Eligibility Requirements
- Funds
- Application Form
- OJS and Érudit Statistics
- Merit review
- Results

Aid to Scholarly Journals

Up to \$52,000 per year for
Established Journals

Up to \$42,400 per year for
Emerging Journals

Duration of 3 years

Deadline to submit an application is
September 10th, 2025 (8:00 pm EST)

Results announced in March 2026



Description

- Aid to Scholarly Journals grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the **Insight program**.
- The grants support Canadian scholarly research and dissemination by offering a contribution to:
 - enable journals to defray the costs associated with publishing open access scholarly articles and digital journal dissemination;
 - explore innovative activities and practices.



Goals

- Enable the **dissemination, discoverability and mobilization** of original research results in the social sciences and humanities through Canadian scholarly journals
- Increase research capacity by facilitating **knowledge sharing** and the development of scholarly communities, particularly in areas relevant to Canada
- Assist journals in taking advantage of **developments in digital technologies** and innovative practices
- Promote **best practices in open access scholarly publishing**
- Encourage the **transition to immediate open access** publishing

2025 Updates

- **2025 as a transition cycle** for journals currently in delayed open access (OA) or charging article processing charges (APCs).
- From 2028, only diamond OA journals will be eligible to ASJ (immediate OA without APCs).
- Significant **increase to the annual maximum funding**, with up to \$52,000 for established journals operating in immediate OA without article processing charges (APCs).
- Significant **increase to the total program budget** from \$3.3M per year to \$7.6M.
- New funding stream for **emerging journals** operating with immediate OA without APCs (diamond OA).

2025 Updates

- Advance OA publishing best practices by requiring **Creative Commons licensing** (or equivalent) and alignment with the **Directory of Open Access Journals** (DOAJ) inclusion criteria from 2028 cycle.
- Adjustments to merit review criteria and an increase to the maximum **supplement for innovation** to up to \$10,000 annually to further advance publishing best practices and innovation.
- **Enhanced flexibility for distribution platform hosting fees** by the elimination of targeted supplement. Distribution platform hosting fees will continue to be an eligible expense of ASJ funding.

Eligibility Requirements



Subject matter

Applicant

Institution

Journal

Open Access

Eligibility Requirements

Subject matter

A journal is **ineligible** for funding under this funding opportunity if:

- its mandate and/or content is primarily focused outside of discipline(s) within SSHRC's mandate; and/or
- its content is primarily health-related and focused on clinical research and education, psychomotor research and kinesiology, counselling and therapy, and epidemiology.
- Multidisciplinary journals that publish articles outside of SSHRC's mandate are eligible to apply provided that their mandate and publications fall **primarily** under SSHRC's mandate

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants

- editor-in-chief of the journal or, in the case of an editorial collective, one of the editors;
- faculty member of an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution; and
- assume responsibility for the grant.

Eligibility Requirements

Institutions

- eligible postsecondary institution or
- eligible not-for-profit organization:
 - either journal itself or a scholarly association or press that administers or owns the journal
- must hold or obtain institutional eligibility

****Not-for-profit organizations or journals that wish to establish or renew institutional eligibility should contact institution.eligibility@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca at least 10 business days before the application deadline.**

Eligibility Requirements

Journal

- meet the definition of a **scholarly journal**
- submit each **article** to a rigorous, independent peer review process;
- publish primarily in English and/or French;
- meet at least one of the two following criteria:
 1. a minimum of one third of the core editorial board is affiliated with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution; and/or
 2. the journal title is owned by a Canadian not-for-profit organization.

Eligibility Requirements

Established journals

- have been founded two or more years prior application deadline
- have published, in the last two years, a minimum of two issues per year, each including at least three peer-reviewed articles or,
- at least six peer-reviewed articles per year (for journals publishing continuously).

Emerging journals

- have been founded within the two years prior application deadline
- have published a minimum of one issue that includes at least three peer-reviewed articles or,
- at least three peer-reviewed articles (for journals publishing continuously).

Eligibility Requirements

Open Access

- publish in **immediate OA, without a subscription and without APCs** (diamond OA) and under an open license (e.g., Creative Commons or equivalent);
 - exceptionally for the 2025 cycle of ASJ, Established journals publishing in delayed OA (embargo of 12 months or less) or using APCs will remain eligible; however, the application must include a **plan to transition to immediate OA without APCs by 2028**
- be indexed in the **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)**, or aligned with DOAJ inclusion criteria;
 - exceptionally for the 2025 cycle of ASJ, journals not included or aligned with DOAJ criteria will remain eligible; however, the application must include a **plan to align the journal with DOAJ criteria by 2028**
 - under the current program criteria journals will not be required to have a history of publishing in immediate OA to be eligible for the 2028 competition; however, they will be required to **transition to an eligible model prior to application submission.**

Eligibility Requirements

Open Access

2028 Competition:

- All journals will be required to publish in immediate open access without a subscription or APCs (diamond open access) and under an open license (Creative Commons or equivalent).

Funds

Four per-article funding rates

Increased supplement for innovation

Elimination of the supplement platforms

Per-article funding rates

- \$1,800 for Emerging journals (immediate OA without APCs)
- \$1,000 for Established journals in immediate OA with APCs (Gold OA)
- \$1,800 for Established journals under Subscription (delayed OA)
- \$2,000 for Established journals in immediate OA without APCs (Diamond OA)
- **Established journals** proposing to transition to immediate OA without APCs prior to 2028 may request the higher per-article rate for the year in which they transition. Release of funding will be contingent on confirmation of the transition.

Supplement for Innovation

Up to \$10,000 per year, for both Emerging and Established journals, to contribute to:

- Costs related to the development and implementation of publishing best practices, including:
 - Technical best practices (e.g. metadata)
 - Digital accessibility, diversity and inclusion best practices
- Innovative dissemination practices (e.g. social media strategy)

Application Form Overview

- Identification
- Journal data
- Journal management
- Journal format
- Research focus
- Article data
- Journal description and outline of future direction
- Description of peer review processes
- Core editorial board / publishing team
- Editorial board members
- Instructions to referees
- List of most frequently used referees*
- List of authors
- Tables of contents
- Funds requested from SSHRC
- Budget justification and publication plan
- Readership data and impact measures*

*Not mandatory for Emerging Journals

Business Model

You may select one of three options available:

- Subscription with delayed Open access (embargo of up to 12 months)
- Open access with article processing charges (APCs) (gold OA)
- OA without subscription or APCs (diamond OA)

Article Data

- See definition of an « article »
- Indicate information about the issues and articles published between June 1, 2023 and May 31, 2025
- If figures provided are not representative of the typical output of the journal, explain this in the « Journal Description » module
- *Note that less data is asked for Emerging journals*

OJS and Érudit Statistics

For 2025 SSHRC *Aid to Scholarly Journals* competition

July 16, 2025
SSHRC ASJ Webinar

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What is Coalition Publica?

→ Coalition Publica is a **partnership** between **Érudit** and the **Public Knowledge Project** to advance research dissemination and digital scholarly publishing in Canada.

→ Together with libraries, we are supporting the social sciences and humanities journal community in the transition towards sustainable open access.

érudit

COALITION
PUBLICA

SFU

PKP
PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE
PROJECT

Journals on the erudit.org platform

What can be compiled

Article data module

- Number of issues per year
- Total number of issues
- Total number of articles published with languages
- Minimum and maximum number of articles per issue

List of authors

- List of researchers whose work published
 - With affiliation if this is included in the articles you send to Érudit

Readership data and impact measures module

- Number of consultations of articles by month
- Number of consultations of articles by geographical location
- Number of consultations per article
- Subscription statistics

Journals using OJS

What can be compiled

Article data module

- Number of issues per year
- Total number of issues
- Total number of articles
 - Number of articles submitted
 - Number of articles accepted
 - Number of articles published
- Average time from submission to acceptance
- Average time from acceptance to publication

Journals using OJS

What can be compiled

List of most frequently used referees

- Referees most often used in the peer review process

List of authors

- List of researchers whose work was accepted or published

Readership data and impact measures module

- some basic web usage statistics
- subscription statistics
- number of visits
- number of full-text article downloads and article views

Journals using OJS

What *may* be compiled (depends on your configuration/publishing practices)

Article data module

- Total number of articles *with languages*
- Student status of submitting authors

List of most frequently used referees

- Institutional affiliation

List of authors

- Institutional affiliation

Readership data and impact measures module

- geographic locations of visitors
- more granular data when combined with 3rd party tools like Google Analytics and Matomo

Journals using the combined Coalition Publica infrastructure (OJS + érudit.org)

Each system compiles its statistics in its own way.

You can combine the Érudit **consultation** statistics with the OJS **file view/download** statistics for the following statistics :

- number of full-text article downloads per month
- average number of full-text views for the top 20 articles
- the geographic locations of visitors, if available

We do **not** recommend combining Érudit **consultation** statistics with OJS **abstract views/visits**

How-to guides

We have prepared guides to help you compile your statistics from the OJS and érudit.org platforms.

In partnership with the Canadian library publishing community, we are preparing a document that may help you plan a transition to diamond open access and adopt best practices for the 2028 SSHRC ASJ competition.

All these documents can be found on the Coalition Publica website.

Resources

<https://bit.ly/cp-asj-ars-2025>



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Merit Review

- Competitive merit review process
- No external assessments
- Multidisciplinary committees
- Scoring:

Score	Description
5-6	Very good - excellent
4-4.9	Good - very good
3-3.9	Satisfactory - good
Below 3	Unsatisfactory

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Merit Review Criteria

Quality and value of the journal (40%)

- rigour and quality of the processes used to select and peer review articles;
- relevance of the articles published in relation to the journal's objectives;
- distinctiveness of the journal's content and/or objectives;
- value of the contribution the journal has made to its field(s) of research and to other relevant user communities, if applicable, or for emerging journals, the potential contribution of the journal to its field(s) of research and relevant user communities, if applicable;
- impact of the journal's articles (e.g., as measured through traditional metrics or altmetrics, or as described by the applicant, or for emerging journals, the potential impact of the journal's articles

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Merit Review Criteria

Editorial direction (30%)

- leadership provided by the editor-in-chief;
- appropriateness of the editorial board / publishing team;
- evidence of active engagement of board / team members; and
- quality of the journal's proposed objectives for the period covered by the grant, and probability that these will be met

3 Merit Review Criteria

Nature and effectiveness of current and proposed dissemination strategies (30%)

- for Established journals only: nature and extent of current readership, and effectiveness of the past efforts to increase or broaden that readership;
- quality of proposed strategies for reaching the appropriate readership; and
- overall presentation and usability of the journal's content and website, including metadata quality.

Funding Cycle

March 2026 – March 2029

Current grants end February 28, 2026

Achievement Reports

More information

- Please consult our [FAQs](#) for further information
- For information regarding eligibility to administer grants funds, please contact: institution.eligibility@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
- If you wish to contact SSHRC regarding the Aid to Scholarly Journals competition, please email: scholarlyjournals@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Other resources

- Directory of Open Access Journals – Guide to applying
<https://doaj.org/apply/guide/>
- Open Access Journals Toolkit
<https://www.oajournals-toolkit.org/>
- Creative Commons Licenses
<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/>
- Réseau Circé resources (in French)
<https://reseaucirce.org/ressources/>

Resources

<https://bit.ly/cp-asj-ars-2025>



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THANK YOU!

DINA GUTH, MANAGER
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