

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCOTTISH HIGHER EDUCATION DIGITAL LIBRARY GROUP REACHES CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT WITH OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHER SOCIAL SCIENCES DIRECTORY

UK-based ‘gold’ open access publisher Social Sciences Directory Limited today announces that the *Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries’ procurement group, the Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL), has become the first consortium in the world to sign a [membership agreement](#) to the multi-disciplinary journals *Social Sciences Directory* and *Humanities Directory*.

The agreement provides a pre-paid number of article processing charges (APCs), which will be available for use by SHEDL’s eighteen university members to pay for article submissions. The APCs can be used in both *Social Sciences Directory* and *Humanities Directory*. Payment will only apply to articles that are accepted for publication.

Dr Richard Parsons, Director of SHEDL, commented:

“The change in the UK funding mandate that came in to effect in April 2013 gives us the need and opportunity to explore new publishing opportunities for Scottish research output. SHEDL has chosen to support Social Sciences Directory because we believe that it offers an opportunity to move to a new publishing solution which maintains quality standards whilst offering a more cost-effective model.”

Dan Scott, founder and director of Social Sciences Directory Limited, commented:

“This is a landmark agreement and I am very pleased that SHEDL has become the first to support this initiative. Having worked in subscription publishing for years, I heard academics and librarians complain about its flaws and cost but say there was no viable alternative. Open access publishing provides significant benefits for authors and readers alike in speeding up publication, widening access and increasing citation, allowing author copyright retention and providing better value-for-money for taxpayers. Core to our thinking is that Social Sciences Directory provides a platform for published research across a broad range of disciplinary areas and from a wide international catchment. We hope this agreement will act as an example to other consortia and that they will follow suit.”

ENDS

03.07.2013

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Social Sciences Directory Limited was founded in 2012 by Dan Scott, as a ‘gold’ open access publisher. It was set up in reaction to many well-known issues in scholarly publishing such as IP, the quantity of wasted material, outdated methodologies and unsustainable costs at a time of widespread budget austerity. It has established two websites, *Social Sciences Directory* which is ‘live’ and *Humanities Directory*, which is in the process of being set up and aims to publish its first issue in 2013. A central concept is that most research is now carried out online using keyword searches, and *Social Sciences Directory* simplifies the process by:

- removing individual journal titles in favour of a large repository
- making the resulting content freely available

In addition, value-added content such as case studies, presentations, reports and conference proceedings can be submitted free of charge and published subject to editorial approval.

Social Sciences Directory is a member of the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association \(OASPA\)](#).

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***The Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries.** Led by the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL), SHEDL is the first super-consortial purchasing scheme of its kind in the UK. Its success, facilitated by JISC Collections, has provided the eighteen Scottish Higher Education Institutions with access to over 3,460 online journals and 39,000 ebooks from leading academic publishers American Chemical Society (ACS), Berg, Cambridge University Press (CUP), Edinburgh University Press (EUP), Intellect, Oxford University Press (OUP), Project Muse, Sage, Springer, and also Portico.

SHEDL aims through collaboration and combined purchasing power to achieve a shared digital library in Scotland with equitable access to electronic content and guaranteed archival access which supports research, learning and teaching. Following its launch in January 2009 SHEDL has quickly made an impact in eliminating differential access to journal content across the sector. It gives students access to a larger range and number of electronic resources and provides an enhanced academic infrastructure for Scotland's universities, especially those initiatives that pool research and collaborate across institutions.

For more information on SHEDL, please contact Jill Evans, the SCURL Service Development Manager

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