

# Open Peer Review: Considerations for Authors & Reviewers

Emily Ford, Wendi Arant Kaspar, Dan Mack, Zoe Wake Hyde,  
Julia Gelfand (Moderator)

ACRL Together Wherever Virtual Event

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# This program....

The scholarly community is experiencing the impact of how many publishing functions embrace more open and transparent processes. Open Peer Review (OPR) is another form of scholarly communication and if adopted reduces the blind reviewing process as signed reviews will be part of the final scholarly record. Authors, reviewers and publishers must develop comfort levels with these new tools and processes that no longer anonymize reviewing. This program will provide insights about what the advantages and concerns open peer review currently has from different perspectives: Publisher, Editor, Reviewer, Author/Scholar, & Readers. Changes for authors, reviewers and the publishing process will be discussed.

# 4 Presentations followed by questions

- Emily Ford, Librarian, “Background & Introduction to OPR”
- Wendi Arant Kaspar, Editor, ACRL’s *C&RL*, “Editor’s & Reviewer’s Perspective”
- Dan Mack, Editor of ACRL’s PIL series, “Launching OPR: Lessons Learned”
- Zoe Wake Hyde, Rebus Communities, “Impact on Authors & Readers”



# Moving Peer Review toward Open

Emily Ford (she/her)

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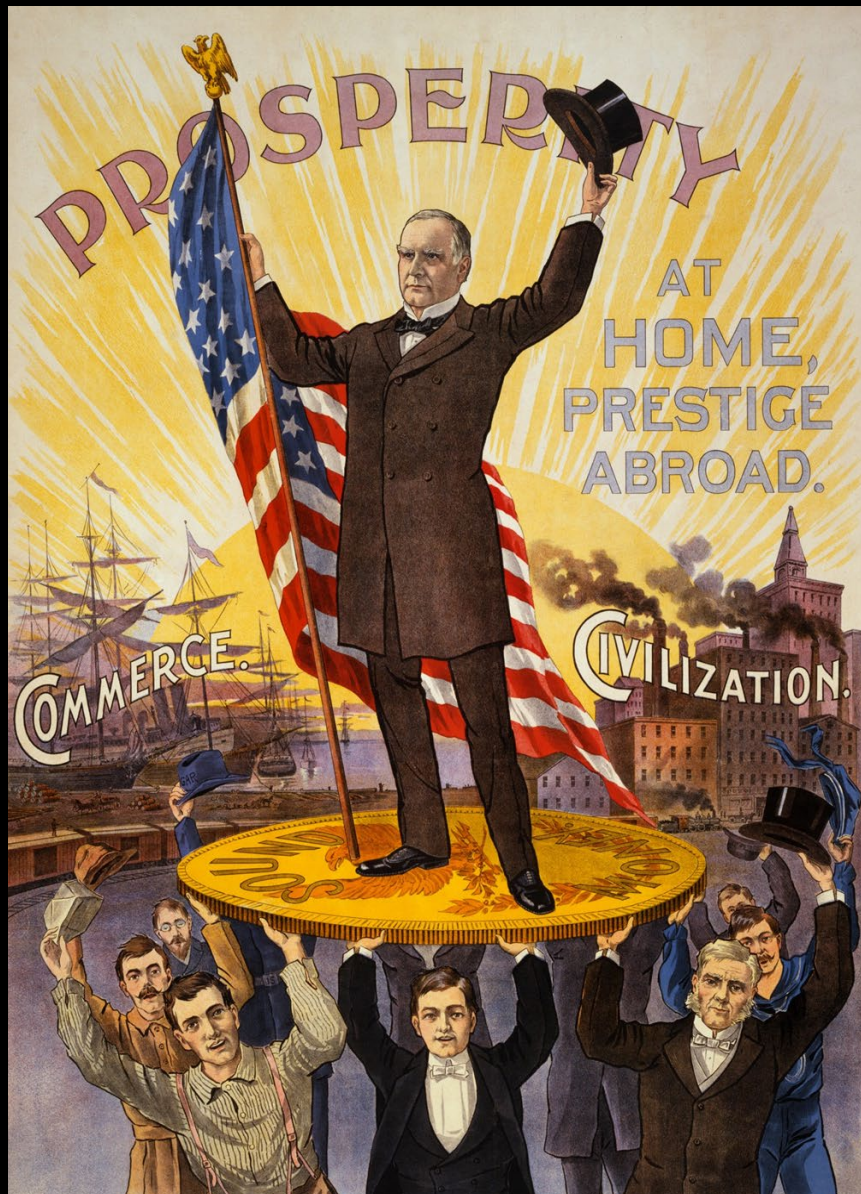




Royal Society, Crane Court, off Fleet Street, London: a meeting in progress, with Isaac Newton in the chair. Wood engraving by J. Quartley after [J. M. L. R.], 1883.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Royal\\_Society,\\_Crane\\_Court,\\_off\\_Fleet\\_Street,\\_London:\\_a\\_meet\\_Wellcome\\_V0013122.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Royal_Society,_Crane_Court,_off_Fleet_Street,_London:_a_meet_Wellcome_V0013122.jpg)





Campaign poster showing William McKinley holding U.S. flag and standing on gold coin "sound money", held up by group of men, in front of ships "commerce" and factories "civilization."

This image is available from the [United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division](#) under the digital ID [cph.3b52834](#)



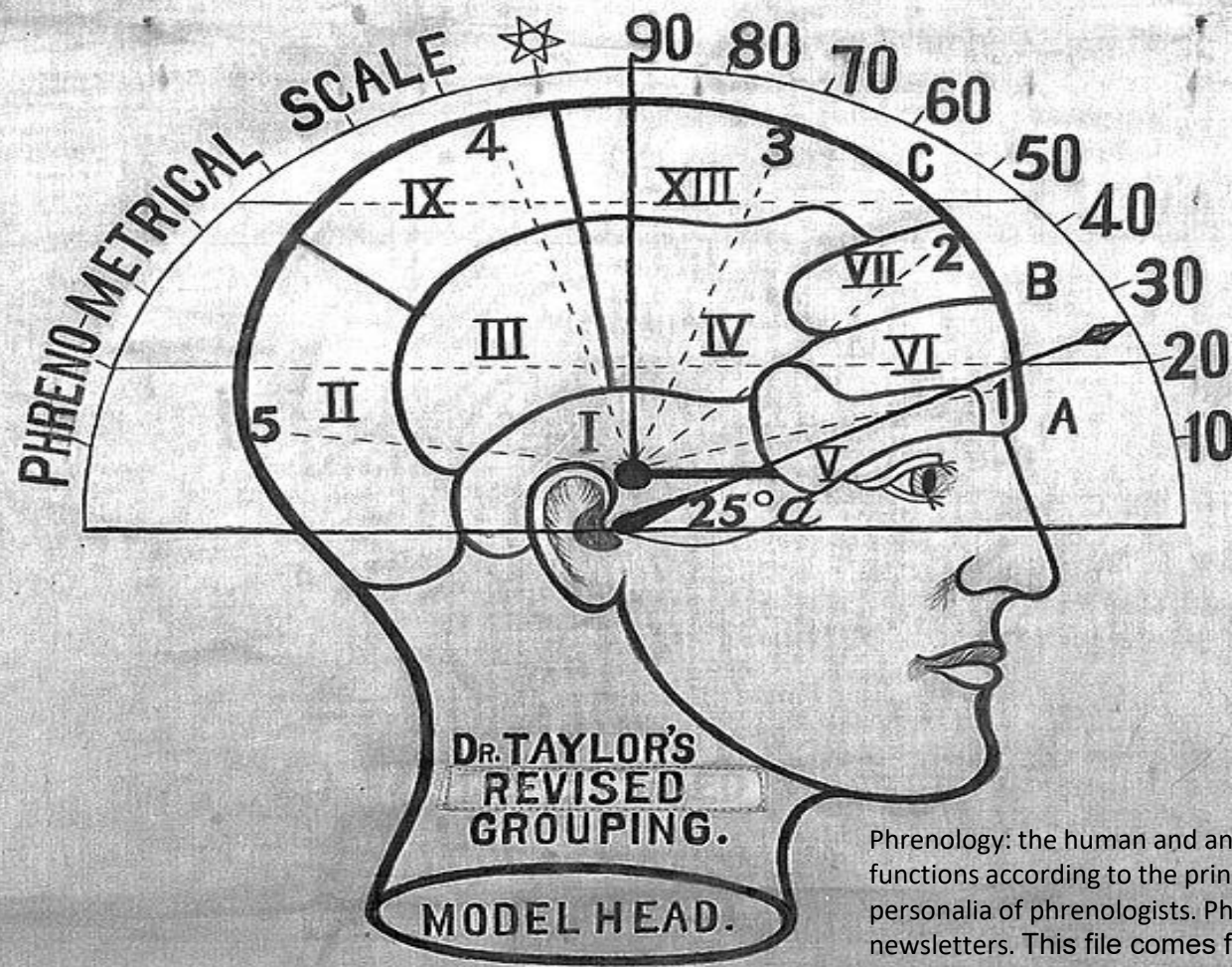


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OPEN





Phrenology: the human and animal brain, the location of its functions according to the principles of phrenology, and personalia of phrenologists. Photographs, drawings and newsletters. This file comes from [Wellcome Images](https://www.wellcomeimages.org/), a website operated by Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation based in the United Kingdom.  
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# Open Peer Review at C&RL

Wendi Arant Kaspar  
Editor, College & Research Libraries



# Timeline of OPR efforts

2016 - Publications Coordinating Committee made open peer review (OPR) a priority

2018 - C&RL chose article for a developmental peer review (DPR) pilot

- testing the waters
- run through the process

2020 - Guest editors of the special issue on VAL decided to use developmental peer review



# Peer reviewers are critical...

- provide an expansive spectrum of expertise
- represent broad experiences and perspectives
- provide an impartial assessment by peers
- represent engagement from the community
  - help orient the direction of the journal and content
- do the heavy lifting...



# Feedback from Reviewers

## Pros

- Transparency
- Reviewer credit/accountability
- Mentoring opportunity
- Reviewer comments add to scholarly dialogue
- Learn how to give/take constructive feedback
- Help papers with good ideas (but needing other help)

## Cons

- Concerns about partiality
- A lot of work!!! - More effort on reviewers part
- Takes more time (for feedback/revisions)
- Fear of bullying or retaliation
- Reluctance to criticize
- Concern over showing the warts

# Would they participate?

- Most are supportive of the idea of OPR
  - but have reservations about implementation
- A few said that they would participate without any reservations
- Some indicated that they would not participate as a reviewer in any model of OPR
  - Concern about maintaining an anonymous process
- Several participated in DPR with C&RL or others and were favorable
- DPR seemed to be the model with the most support



# Moving forward with OPR at C&RL

- Encourage use of developmental review in special issues
  - Special issue in 2022 on Open & Equitable Scholarship, likely using developmental review
- Incorporate option in regular review process
  - if author agrees, it would move from anonymized to DPR
- Develop author/reviewer guidance and framework
  - reviewers indicated need for guidelines
- Consider commenting on final versions with OJS upgrade

# Open Peer Review at Publications in Librarianship

Daniel C. Mack

Series Editor, Publications in Librarianship



# Time line

- Spring 2017: PIL Editorial Board begins researching and planning OPR for future manuscripts
- Fall 2017: decision tree and draft proposal
- Winter/spring 2018: decision tree and proposal approved by PCC
- Summer/fall 2018: approved by ACRL Board
- Winter/spring 2019: refinement of process
- Fall 2019: finalize process
- Winter/spring 2020: first OPR manuscript

# Why Open Peer Review?

- Open Peer Review provides an alternative to traditional, double-blind peer review
- OPR encourages transparency
- OPR is a natural and logical companion to Open Access, Open Data, Open Science



# Practical considerations

- What does ***open*** mean?
  - Who can review?
  - Who can see reviews?
- How are reviewers solicited?
  - ACRL venues: *ACRL Insider*, social media, etc.
  - Word of mouth (virtual): PIL Editorial Board personal contacts, past PIL authors and editors
- Platform
  - Considered options such as Wordpress
  - Use Google Documents

# Pilot OPR manuscript

- Emily Ford: *Stories of Open: Opening Peer Review through Narrative Inquiry*
- Announced 11 February 2020
- Review period open through 23 March 2020
- Solicited reviews through ACRL, PIL Editorial Board contacts, past PIL authors and editors
- And then, the pandemic hit...

# Lessons and next steps

- Most of review period was during initial COVID-19 pandemic responses by academic institutions
- Received two OPR reviews, included comments from PIL Editorial Board
- Next OPR manuscript went live 28 May 2020 through 13 July 2020: <https://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/archives/19875>
- Marketing as a great telework opportunity for librarians seeking research and service outlets
- Considering two tracks for future PIL manuscripts: OPR and traditional review by PIL Editorial Board




# Open Peer Review

Zoe Wake Hyde - Assistant Director, Rebus Foundation



Peer review is collaboration.





Open peer review creates stronger  
texts for readers.



Openness introduces risk,  
and the risk is not evenly  
distributed.



We have an opportunity  
(and a responsibility) to  
do better

# List of References

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14zdetD1G-4PKqqNgc8k8bKV9ANnj0PgG/view?usp=sharing>
- Or please request from Julia Gelfand ([jgelfand@uci.edu](mailto:jgelfand@uci.edu))