

Although open access journals are making an impact on classics, by far the bulk of periodical scholarship in the field is still published in subscription journals, which can be divided into three groups according to the extent of their online availability: 1) titles that are fully available, from volume one; 2) titles with only a limited number of volumes online; and 3) titles with no online presence. Preliminary investigation, based on a list of 54 core titles (Jenkins 2006), reveals that each group exhibits particular characteristics.

Titles in group 1 constitute a small percentage of classics subscription journals that have an electronic presence. These journals are almost entirely Anglo-American and general in scope. They also tend to be well established, are highly regarded internationally, and are published by prestigious societies or other academic bodies.

Journals in group 2 tend to offer either current content, with few if any back issues, or a deep backfile without current content. Group 2 titles are diverse in terms of country of publication, although the largest single subset is Anglo-American. Many Continental titles, especially older ones, have established an electronic presence since 2000, but most offer only current content. Because many titles in group 2 are not part of big-name journal packages, their online availability is not widely known and is sometimes not noted in standard bibliographic tools such as WorldCat or *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory*, which creates a barrier to access.

Many leading subscription journals in classics have no online presence. A large subset are older Anglo-American titles that are well regarded and published by societies or other academic bodies. European titles constitute the other major subset of group 3 and also include many old, well regarded titles, although considerably more journals in the European subset are published commercially than by non-profits.

These preliminary findings will be tested against a much larger pool of leading journals by combining the core list in Jenkins 2006 with those in Gullath 1992 and Jäger 1990, two other recognized research guides to classical studies. The resulting study sample will be truly international, representative of classics as a whole, and large enough to warrant solid generalizations based on statistical comparisons. Moreover, economic and organizational factors that likely account for the tripartite division of subscription journals in the electronic arena will be discussed. For example, the embargo that many journals in group 2 impose on current content is best explained by fear of lost revenue from cancelled paper subscriptions (Clarke 2004 and Tenopir 1999).

Knowing which leading subscription journals are or aren't making the electronic transition—and why—positions classicists to help remedy gaps in this process. Several specific measures are worth pursuing. Advocacy by societies like the APA, for instance, can sometimes influence JSTOR and other vendors to add particular titles. Such advocacy could be expanded, in collaboration with European classicists, to encourage national digitization projects there to include appropriate journals. Forming partnerships with the digital programs of research libraries, as *BASP* has done at the University of Michigan, can make important titles available online that are too specialized to interest commercial content providers. Finally, classicists informed about the issues could work systematically with societies and other non-profit publishers, both here and abroad, to help them understand that, contrary to their fears, their overall revenue will not necessarily decline from providing current online content for the journals they publish.