

# Open Access Community Investment Program Investment Criteria for Open Access Investments

## *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*

*The American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, published by the UCLA American Indian Studies Center (AISC), is among the premier peer-reviewed journals in Native American studies. AICRJ publishes quarterly issues comprised of book reviews, literature, and original scholarly papers on a wide range of issues in the fields of history, anthropology, geography, sociology, political science, health, literature, law, education, and the arts. In print since 1974, it has been supported by paid subscriptions.

Open Access is appealing for AICRJ because it would make American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) scholarship more widely available nationally and internationally, at tribal colleges, reservation libraries, and beyond. OA publishing of AIIS scholarship also fulfills part of our mission and obligation at UCLA, a land-grant university, to provide research for California Native communities. OA would:

1. Significantly increase the availability, access and readership of the journal. This will make both the existing stock of published articles (the archive) as well as all future published articles and volumes available for downloading at no cost to the reader.
2. Increase the visibility of the journal internationally and domestically.
3. Align with the journal's increasing emphasis on community focus and access.
4. Be hosted by the UC-wide administration through the eScholarship platform, which will remain in place indefinitely with no cost to the journal, UCLA or AISC.
5. Serve as a test case and model as UCLA contemplates its future commitment to supporting open access campus-based journals.

Amount Sought: \$32,250 per year in perpetuity. Production costs average \$60,000 per year, approximately half of which we have secured from our home institution, UCLA. As befits our mission and principles, we do not ask authors to cover any publishing costs or processing fees for their articles.

### **Resource Overview**

#### 1. Description and mission of resource

In print since 1974, the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* (AICRJ) is an internationally renowned multidisciplinary journal designed for scholars and the general public. We publish quality research by, for and with American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other Indigenous Peoples and their various communities—whether they are nations, tribes, townships, villages, or islands. We seek to balance a local, national, and international focus, with special attention given to California Indian nations. We publish research endeavors showcasing innovative thought, integrity, and collaboration.

We position the journal to have a unique vantage point and perspective that focuses on community in its multiple meanings. First, we seek research that is related to Indigenous peoples' communities. We publish quality research across a wide range of disciplines within the social sciences, humanities, education, law and society, and community-engaged (physical) sciences in contemporary and historical settings. Second, we strive to create a community of scholars by creating journal space for discussions, dialogue, extensions and applications of existing research across subject areas, disciplines, and communities. We aim to engage scholars in novel ways that improve insight, collaboration and equity in research.

The editorial board is comprised of UCLA faculty members and other University of California faculty members. It is a quarterly journal, peer-reviewed and published by the American Indian Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles. Each issue contains six research articles (or five research articles plus one commentary), a discussion section for scholarly engagement across and between disciplines, and ten book reviews for a total page count of roughly 200.

Mission information should also be provided society/publisher level.

The open access platform eScholarship is maintained and operated (and funded) by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP), and the platform is available to all University of California journals at no cost. UCOP is promoting open access by paying for the cost of operating the platform. This aligns with the series of [open access policies](#) instituted by the University of California in recent years. Still, while the UC emphasizes the importance of publishing UC researchers' scholarship in open access format, there is a gap in support for journals housed in the UC system that wish to convert to open access publishing.

eScholarship is the UCOP platform for publishing digitized content for UC scholars, and it publishes over 70 journals for UC entities. It is open-access, no subscription is required to access current and archived journal issues, and articles are [free of journal-based copyright and licensing restrictions](#). For E-scholarship, open access also means a nonprofit publisher: this is a University of California service, not a for-profit venture. However, while the platform and its maintenance are covered by the UCOP, the costs of journal production, layout and editing are not (even for a purely online journal).

Indicate whether mission supports scholarly researchers and/or the public interest

AICRJ's readership consists primarily of scholarly researchers and practitioners, particularly those working in and for American Indian, Alaska Native and other tribal or Indigenous communities and nations. We seek to facilitate broader dissemination of important research and to offer diverse perspectives on the theoretical and community-based work these scholars do.

## 2. Publishing history

Continuously published since volume 1, issue 1, published January 1, 1974.

### 3. Peer review process

AICRJ uses a double-blind peer-review process (for research articles and commentaries), meaning the authors' and reviewers' identities are not revealed to each other during review. Manuscripts within the scope of our journal will be sent to three reviewers. Our senior editor handles the correspondence between the Editor-in-Chief, reviewers and the manuscript author(s).

### 4. Snapshot of resource and society/publisher finances and governance. Information provided both at journal and society/publisher level

The journal is committed to an Open Access model, that is, no fees charged to readers or authors. The Regents of the University of California hold copyright over AICRJ, with the UCLA American Indian Studies Center managing the licensing of content. The journal is governed by an Editor-in-Chief, who is appointed by a Publications Committee convened by the Director of the UCLA American Indian Studies Center. The Editor-in-Chief appoints Associate Editors. The Associate Editors provide feedback on manuscripts, edit special issues of the journal and provide recommendations for new reviewers and authors. Associate Editors are drawn from all of the University of California campuses that have American Indian Studies or Native Studies professors, courses and departments. Staff members provide correspondence between authors and reviewers and editors. Staff also provides all copy editing, layout, and accessibility checking for the journal in-house.

Currently, funds for the journal operation come from subscription-based fees from various libraries and universities nationwide and internationally.

#### Indicate any non-profit status

The University of California, with 10 campuses and 5 medical centers, is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) institution. UCLA is part of the land-grant University of California system.

### 5. Current business model of resource

AICRJ has been a subscription-based journal with no fees for authors since its founding. We have a current contract with Allen Press to host online articles, which has been operating on a year-by-year basis since the decision to take AICRJ open access was made. AICRJ is not licensed to content aggregators such as JSTOR and Project MUSE, and this severely restricts the circulation of AICRJ scholarship. Subscriptions and the printing and shipping of the journal are handled in-house. A book review editor and publications assistant are employed.

#### If subscription, indicate distribution/sales volume

Since the pandemic, subscriptions have dropped. Currently, there are 145 print subscribers and 223 online subscribers, whereas in 2019 there were 189 print subscribers. In addition, subscriptions have fallen because AICRJ is not licensed through large for-profit content aggregators such as JSTOR and Project MUSE. Rather than increasing revenue and readership

through expensive licensing agreements or raising subscription rates, it was decided to expand access by taking AICRJ open access.

6. Summary of pilot funding request. Include total dollar value sought per year, term for which sought, and minimum investment accepted

AICRJ seeks contributions to cover its annual costs and the initial file-transfer expense. Once it eliminates the subscription funding model, nearly all of the costs for OA go to staff time for author and reviewer correspondence, copy editing, layout, file preparation for online hosting, and accessibility checking. Our total annual costs amount to approximately \$60,000 per year. We have secured \$30,000 from the UCLA Vice Chancellor for Research. Therefore, we request \$32,250 annually, which is required to maintain the quality, accuracy, and integrity of the published scholarship. In the first year, an additional estimated \$10,000 will be required to transfer and prepare the online files currently being managed by Allen Press for eScholarship hosting. We seek \$32,250 per year in perpetuity. Our annual costs are shown below in the table.

		<b>Annual Rate</b>
<b>Salaries</b>		
<b>Senior Editor (0.5 FTE)</b>		\$ 30,808.44
Composite Benefits Rate		\$ 16,266.86
Gael		\$ 382.02
Technology Infrastructure Fee		\$ 263.76
<b>Publications Assistant (0.2 FTE)</b>		\$ 4,500.00
Composite Benefits Rate		\$ 306.94
Gael		\$ 77.67
Technology Infrastructure Fee		\$ 105.50
<b>Book Review Editor (0.2 FTE)</b>		\$ 7,200.00
Composite Benefits Rate		\$ 429.71
Gael		\$ 108.74
Technology Infrastructure Fee		\$ 105.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 60,555.15</b>
<b>Direct Costs</b>		
		<b>Annual Rate</b>
ITS: HODB to host subscribers and reviewers data		\$ 357.00
Outgoing Mail: mailing out review books		\$ 480.00
Printing		\$ -
Layout/File Prep/Metatags		\$ 3,400.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,237.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$ 64,792.15</b>

7. Reasons for seeking funding for transition to OA or continued support for OA publication

Taking AICRJ open access is both a philosophical and a practical endeavor. The University of California encourages journal publishers to make their published scholarship available for free to

increase the dissemination of knowledge to a wider audience. As a publicly funded institution and as a land-grant institution, we should certainly not charge the peoples whose lands the universities reside upon for this research: California American Indians and other Indigenous Peoples. Pragmatically, providing open access means that hundreds, perhaps thousands, more readers will have access to that content both domestically and internationally. It can reach small island nations and Indigenous scholars throughout the world. Thus, we wish to take the journal from a subscription-based readership to open access. We acknowledge that as a land-grant institution, UCLA (and all of the UC campuses) have a responsibility to make our research journals more accessible to the general public. In particular, we are committed to making the catalog of AICRJ research (and future publications) available for free to American Indian, Native American and other Indigenous peoples both domestically and abroad. We see our journal as an important resource for scholars, policymakers and community advocates. Moving the AICRJ to open access improves the accessibility and the flow of knowledge back to these Indigenous communities.

## **Impact**

Disciplinary impact. Point, if possible, to an annual report with stats showing impact; data from other institutions who have adopted it.

We do not have precise citation impact data, as it has not been supplied by the platform Allen Press used to host AICRJ content prior to August 2020, nor do we have accurate data showing views of abstracts. Rather, we are sent reports of individual article sales, which does not offer a complete picture. As the only journal in its field in existence for 50 years, AICRJ is widely known and cited.

8. **Diversity, equity, and inclusion impact.** Inclusion of diverse voices; promotion of publishing opportunities for underrepresented scholars, societies, or groups.

The move to publish ethnic studies centers journals at UCLA arose out of the protests of the 1960s when students clamored to have their voices heard. In 1968 the students succeeded in convincing the higher administration of the need for more ethnic studies courses, faculty and students and for their own publications. In 1970 the first issue of what was then called the *American Indian Culture Center Journal*, a non-scholarly publication, was published. In 1974, the editors decided to publish an academic journal that would foreground scholarship about and by American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other Indigenous peoples and their various communities, nations, tribes, townships, villages, or islands. In the early 2000s, the editorial focus expanded to include articles about Indigenous Peoples from around the world, though the primary focus remains on American Indians in the United States and Canada. We also endeavor to solicit and publish research about California Indians more consistently. For years AICRJ was the primary voice in revealing, elevating, and educating others about research conducted by, for and with American Indians and various other educators and scholars.

We continue to position the journal to have a unique vantage point and perspective that focuses on community in its multiple meanings. First, we seek research related to Indigenous peoples'

communities that addresses practical, theoretical, historical, environmental, and/or legal aspects of an issue. Second, we strive to create a community of scholars by creating journal space for discussions, dialogue, extensions and applications of existing research across subject areas, disciplines, and communities. We aim to engage scholars in novel ways that improve insight, collaboration and equity in research. Third, we incorporate Indigenous methodologies, decolonial practices, and traditional knowledge in our publishing practices. UCLA's American Indian Studies Center is housed in the UCLA Institute of American Culture, which also includes Asian American Studies Center, the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies and the Chicano Studies Research Center. As a result, AICRJ is part of a broader ethnic studies and intersectional scholarly environment that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion at UCLA and beyond.

9. Indicators of faculty impact or student success. Include usage statistics.

N/A

10. Indication of improved access to unique content or services not otherwise available.

AICRJ publishes original research articles, commentary and book reviews across a wide range of disciplines within the social sciences, humanities, education, law and society, and community-engaged (physical) sciences in contemporary and historical settings. AICRJ is one of the few journals that publishes on American Indian, Native American and Indigenous peoples research. We are also the only one, to our knowledge, that is advocating for an open-access format that will make 48 years' worth of publications available for scholars, Native American and other Indigenous communities, and the general public. Thus, our push to seek open access for the AICRJ will result in a unique opportunity for making available a relatively large catalog of published research for an underserved population.

### **Organization & Governance**

11. Whether investment carries governance input. Statement on editorial independence or whether investors have a say in governance or article selection/journal direction.

AICRJ is published by the UCLA American Indian Studies Center. The journal decisions are made by the Editor-in-Chief with input from Associate Editors, peer reviewers and occasionally our staff. The Book Review Editor manages that part of the journal; the Senior Editor handles peer review, copyediting, and advertising, and the Managing Editor ties the various elements together, overseeing the production end of journal publishing and hosting, as well as the sales and subscription side. Publishing decisions operate independently from the publishers. In the move to the online open-access platform, all journal decisions would be completely independent of the open-access eScholarship publishers at the University of California Office of the President.

Sponsorship/investment does not give particular governance rights or a say in editorial decisions, and AISCJ is committed to provide transparency in the financial structure of the journal, its

publication costs, and the editorial processes. Sponsors can therefore at any time request information of this sort.

12. Commitment to advancing social justice and diversity. Include if applicable: Resource respects cultural heritage through advocacy of data sovereignty or use of TK Labels; resource has commitment to diversity in mission statement; commitment to diversity in the board or development of journal, etc.

AICRJ is a multidisciplinary journal with a board of associate editors who are drawn from all of the University of California campuses with Native American faculty members and Native American (or American Indian) Studies programs. Our journal has published articles employing Traditional Knowledge (TK), data sovereignty and social justice. In fact, the AICRJ was founded on the principle of social justice, arising out of the social protest movements of the 1960s, and has continued to publish in this vein throughout its nearly half-century history.

Our mission statement is as follows: “We publish quality research by, for and with American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other Indigenous Peoples and their various communities—whether they are nations, tribes, townships, villages, or islands. (We seek to balance a local, national, and international focus, with special attention given to California Indian nations.) We publish research endeavors showcasing innovative thought, integrity, and collaboration.”

“We position the journal to have a unique vantage point and perspective that focuses on community in its multiple meanings. First, we seek research that is related to Indigenous peoples’ communities. We publish quality research across a wide-range of disciplines within the social sciences, humanities, education, law and society, and community-engaged (physical) sciences in contemporary and historical settings. Second, we strive to create a community of scholars by creating journal space for discussions, dialogue, extensions and applications of existing research across subject areas, disciplines, and communities. We aim to engage scholars in novel ways that improve insight, collaboration and equity in research.”

Our journal is one of the premier journals in American Indian and Native American Studies. We often publish special issues focusing on various aspects of emerging themes in social justice and diversity. For instance, in 2021 we published a two-volume special issue focusing on the impact of COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples (<https://meridian.allenpress.com/aicrj/issue/44/2>; <https://meridian.allenpress.com/aicrj/issue/44/3>) with contributions from the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand. The editors of those two special issue volumes were Dr. Chandra Ford, a founder of the UCLA *Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Health* and Dr. Stephanie Carroll, a founder of the U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network. These types of publications are typical of our journal and our focus.

Below is an example of a Traditional Knowledge journal article.

Margaret Pearce, Renee Louis; Mapping Indigenous Depth of Place. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 1 January 2008; 32 (3): 107–126. doi: <https://doi.org/10.17953/aicr.32.3.n7g22w816486567j>

Below is a single example of a recent article focused on decolonizing the sciences and Indigenous data sovereignty.

Ranjan Datta; Decolonizing Methodologies: A Transformation from Science- Oriented Researcher to Relational/Participant-Oriented Researcher. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 1 January 2018; 42 (1): 115–130. doi: <https://doi.org/10.17953/aicrj.42.1.datta>

### 13. Author rights retention & licensing

Authors retained rights to their content in AICRJ volumes 1-16, no. 2 (1992), after which the University of California took over the copyright. With permission to reprint requests flooding the Center, it was deemed far easier for the university to handle such requests than to refer seekers of reprint rights to the authors. Authors continue to retain right to most creative work: poetry, fiction, and plays. Licensing is handled in-house on a case-by-case basis.

### 14. Compliance with relevant technical standards. Include if relevant: LOCKSS preservation or some other form of industry-standard preservation, FAIR data, meets interoperability standards (discovery layer, OAI-PMH), meets user experience standards (ADA accessibility), reference to metadata and discovery standards

Allen Press, which hosts the online content, is responsible for maintaining industry standards on preservation, and metadata and discovery standards. The editorial staff includes a unique DOI for each article, and staff members follow FAIR standards in publishing and in licensing of copyrighted content. The PDFs that are hosted online included accessibility features, and the printed journal employs black type against a white background, which is a preferred color scheme for easier sight-impaired readers.

### 15. Commitment to innovation and research & development

The American Indian Studies Center employs a very small staff yet strives to stay abreast of new technologies. In 2008, we made the transition to online publishing, and in 2011 we published a special issue of conference papers on which we included QR codes that took readers to a YouTube video of each author’s conference presentation. In the midst of the early pandemic in 2020, we migrated the online AICRJ content from the Pinnacle platform to the Meridian platform, during which we enhanced the design, features, usability and readability of the articles.

In 2018, with Randall Akee coming on board as the journal’s new editor-in-chief, we began rethinking the content of the journal, deciding to focus on community-based research more closely, to create communities of scholars who would contribute differing viewpoints on a given topic, to make the journal more accessible and free to users by going open access.

AICRJ has continued to publish at the cutting edge of new scholarship. The most recent special issue examines the exploration for extraterrestrial life in the context of settler colonial thought and unnerving comparisons to the rhetoric of exploration employed by the colonizers and imperialists who took over indigenous peoples lands in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America.

In order to make AICRJ more accessible to a broader readership, we are seeking to take the journal from a subscription-based readership to open-access. Our goal in doing this is to make the existing catalog more accessible for a broader readership both domestically and internationally. We are excited about the possibilities that open-access publishing will have for our journal and our readers (existing and new ones). We are also exploring via the E-Scholarship platform the ability to completely automate the manuscript review process and the sending of follow-up emails and other reminders. In general, our staff and editors are quite enthusiastic about opportunities to make the journal more accessible and readily available and we see out any improvement or innovation that facilitates our work.

16. Demonstration of operational and financial stability, or a plan for such

AICRJ has operated successfully and continuously since 1974 (and since 1971 under a different name, mission, and format). Our journal is backed by the UCLA American Indian Studies Center staff and financial support. Additionally, journal content is guided by associate editors from a wide variety of fields, interdisciplinary and traditional. The production staff are highly experienced and competent. Thus, we have a strong relationship and coordinate seamless with each other. Everyone is quite supportive of the journal, and the larger institution of UCLA and the University of California Office of the President have also expressed support and commitment. Just this year, the UCLA Office of Research and Creative Activities, which oversees the entire university's research endeavors, has committed to funding half of the journal's expenses in perpetuity for taking its content open access.

The financial plan that is proposed is modest. It will likely require contributions from 15 to 20 organizations.