

Open Access Community Investment Program Investment Criteria

Criteria for Open Access Investments

Pilot participants will be asked to summarize their request for investment in an “elevator pitch,” and provide responses to or describe how they satisfy the following criteria:

“Elevator Pitch”:

Please provide no more than 300 words summarizing how much money you are seeking, for what period of time, the levels/tiers of potential investment, and why you are recommending that stakeholders invest in your journal, resource, or project.

One of the major challenges facing the worldwide spread of Open Access (OA) movement, still in its early stages, is to breach geo-political boundaries and economic barriers, especially in ensuring its viability among the third world countries. Even though OA is designing channels to bring knowledge to a global scholarship, it is still a long way to come up with sustainable business models in keeping with the laws of specific countries and locally available resources. This contextualizes OA’s limited viability and awareness even in the metropolises of countries like India, which lends unique challenges to *Language, Literature, and Interdisciplinary Studies (LLIDS)*.

Some concrete challenges LLIDS is engaging with are summarized thus:

- To build a sustainable OA model in keeping with the laws and legal infrastructure of India and resources available here.
- To help create an awareness of OA by mediating between Indian academia and its global counterparts.
- To address the diverse standards of worldwide scholarship due to gaps and disparities consequent to varied focus of education systems.

To meet these challenges, we keep abreast of evolving global educational standards by adopting Open Access policies which demand assistance of multiple organizations and institutions to create sustainable structures, as it cannot be dealt with any single institution. We need the support of multiple stakeholders if we want OA initiatives to be a point of departure to establish fair and commensurable opportunities for all scholars.

As of May 2022, our team—including both administrative and editorial—consists of 14 members who voluntarily contribute both their time and resources to sustain our efforts. In order to sustain

ourselves we need annual funds of \$40,000 per year for the next 5 years which would amount to a total of \$200,000 for the 5-year term of fundraising cycle.

Resource Overview

1. Description and mission of resource

- a. Mission information should also be provided society/publisher level*
- b. Indicate whether mission supports scholarly researchers and/or the public interest*

E.L.A. Project (Education and Liberal Arts Project) is the Publisher of *LLIDS* and is conceived with a mind to introduce OA platforms, free from financial barriers to scholars everywhere whether they be researchers, students, authors, or readers. It seeks to bridge the gap between higher education curriculums and the standards of research expected by the global academic community. This objective forks into an enterprise which engages with well-established scholars—already creating and establishing these standards through their research—alongside the initiates who are entering academia to learn these skills. We have chosen to give priority to the latter while not forgoing our engagement with the established scholars; therefore, we work with established scholars to help guide young scholars work towards rigorous standards of research.

At present, two initiatives are being run under the aegis of E.L.A. Project:

- ***Language, Literature, and Interdisciplinary Studies*** (<https://ellids.com/>): *LLIDS* is an academic journal which, in its scope, aims to cover liberal studies in the field of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies. An Open Access, peer-reviewed, academic e-journal, *LLIDS* aims to grow beyond the traditional multidisciplinary borders to carve a place for interdisciplinary studies and establish a dialogue with scholars worldwide about how language itself has necessitated the progression from a multidisciplinary approach to an interdisciplinary one.

Our accreditations include:

- Publication under a Creative Commons Attribution-ND 4.0 International License.
 - Indexed by DOAJ, ERIHPLUS, and Google Scholar.
 - Archiving of all publications on Internet Archive (archive.org) and our own website.
- **Project Knowledge (PK):** PK is an initiative to enlist all free resources and make them accessible to scholars worldwide. It is a single platform for dissemination of free information that is available on a variety of platforms—repositories, encyclopedias, podcasts, videos, lectures, catalogues, journals, events, etc. It is primarily conceived as a

resource tool for both scholars and students alike to help them avail resources material for educational, pedagogical, and research purposes.

Started as a Facebook feed during the COVID-19 pandemic to create awareness among scholars about Open Access and general practices of academic publishing, PK—<https://ellids.com/project-knowledge/>—has quickly shaped itself as a permanent database of OA resources. As an ever-evolving OA Resource centre, it catalogues more than 200 resources and has garnered a following of 8,500+ scholars on Facebook. Timely updates on new as well as time-sensitive resources are posted regularly on the Facebook feed of LLIDS—<https://www.facebook.com/journal.llids>.

Users are encouraged to explore its catalogue of PK through subject specific keywords as well as the thematic categories organized in the following manner:

Research Resources

- ❖ Time-sensitive
- ❖ Encyclopedias
- ❖ E-text Repositories
- ❖ Online Library Catalogues
- ❖ Free streaming
- ❖ Podcasts
- ❖ Reviews/Articles
- ❖ Online Courses
- ❖ Research Resource
- ❖ Virtual Museum Tours

- ❖ Resource Databases

Writing Resources

- ❖ Writing Resources
- ❖ Citation Tools

Publication Resources

- ❖ Open Access Publications/Directories
- ❖ Publication Opportunities

Proposed Endeavors – Planning Phase

- **Writing Program:** This program is aimed at creating a more personalized dialogue with upcoming scholars and facilitating mentorship for writing research papers. Unlike publishing, which is limited by its end goal, the writing program will enable us to work with a wider range of scholars while creating a culture conducive to research and establishing better standards for research.
- **Peer-review Program:** This program is conceived to make available a platform for users to receive peer reviews on their research papers, as well as a centre where they can volunteer themselves to review research articles. The programme plans to facilitate an exchange of feedbacks amongst scholars in order to help them with their writing skills in a stress-free ecosystem.

2. Publishing History

- Committed to promote standards of quality of academic research, it has been providing discursive space for scholars since 2017.
- Since then, *LLIDS* has published 17 Issues in 4 volumes and is currently in its fifth publication cycle.
- As of May 2022, we have published with nearly 100 scholars from 69 Institutions of 22 different countries.

3. Peer-review Process

- *LLIDS* follows a **double-blind peer review policy** where the identities of the reviewers as well as the authors are kept confidential and not revealed to each other.
- To ensure this, we enforce the policy that the reviewers are chosen from different institutions than the authors.
- Reviewers are selected keeping in mind that their subject area as well as matching the level of their educational qualifications with that of the author.
- Authors who publish with us are also encouraged to participate in the peer review process.

4. Snapshot of resource and society/publisher finances and governance

a. Information provided both at journal and society/publisher level

b. Indicate any non-profit status

E.L.A. Project is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization which facilitates resource generation and its distribution for research scholars and students working in the fields of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies.

5. Current Business Model of Resource

a. If subscription, indicate distribution/sales volume

Finances required for the basic functioning of E.L.A. Project, the publisher of *LLIDS*, are contributed by its founding group members privately out of their own pocket. However, sole dependence on the limited budget afforded by our founders tends to cover minimal operating costs and limits our scalability. Hence, there is a move towards implementation of a hybrid business model to allow E.L.A. Project more financial autonomy for further growth.

b. In-kind contributions

As of May 2022, our team—including both administrative and editorial—consists of 14 members who voluntarily contribute both their time and resources to sustain our efforts.

The following business models are being explored in order to achieve sustainability and scalability:

- **Donations** - Owing to limitations imposed by the Indian Establishment, E.L.A. Project is only able to accept donations from Indian citizens channeled via Indian bank accounts. We seek support from the scholar community to sustain our work.
- **Google AdSense** - Google Ads have been displayed on ellids.com since February 2019. But we are yet to materialize any gains from this system. The same will be under review after 5 years of its implementation.
- **Editorial Services** - Varied editorial services had been launched by E.L.A. Project to supplement our funding efforts.
- **Optional APCs** - In order to attempt a sustainable model to ensure its long-term viability, *LLIDS* has opted for an Optional APC policy from April 2021 onwards. The nonbinding nature of the “optional” APCs help us remain committed to being available to authors as well as readers across financially disparate geographies and social classes. Optional APCs are applicable for:
 - ❖ Institutionally funded authors.
 - ❖ Non-funded authors who can choose to pay APC if they want to contribute to our sustenance.

Authors who are unable to opt for APCs will remain exempted and APCs are accepted only when a submission has been finalized for the publication.

Proposed Plans (yet to be initiated)

- **Subscribe to Continue OA:** Even though the Subscribe to Open model largely focuses on converting traditional publishing platforms to Open Access, we believe it is useful in providing us opportunities to seek continuation of our endeavours through the support of various academic institutions, research centers, libraries, and other organizations, in the form of voluntary annual subscriptions. The model has the potential to assist us in retracting our Optional APC policy while transcending national boundaries and approaching the global academic community to include a diversity of perspectives to research, and also to help us explore other viable sustenance models.

6. Summary of Pilot Funding Request

a. Include total dollar value sought per year, term for which sought, and minimum investment accepted

LLIDS seeks funds for a period of five years to sustain and expand its outreach. The required annual funds include:

- Personnel expenses including Website development and maintenance, Technical Services, Copyediting and formatting expenses – \$7000
- Honorariums for editorial team members – \$15,500
- Technical support including a plagiarism software as well as website hosting and cloud space – \$9500
- Crossref membership for DOI – \$300
- LYRASIS fee, transaction and conversion costs – \$5000
- Contingency fund for unforeseen expenditure and expansion projects – \$2700

The annual funding required by *LLIDS* is \$40,000; and a total funding of \$200,000 for a period of five years.

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

We are seeking funding for continued support to OA publication in order to:

- Sustain and expand the efforts of *LLIDS* while granting it capacity to mentor and publish scholars without charging APCs.
- Create more awareness of its mission statement to furnish a space for research in Humanities through funding from a consortium of libraries.
- Allow for a discourse between varied indigenous intellectual landscapes and western scholarship.

Impact

8. Disciplinary impact

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

As of May 2022, *LLIDS* has published 17 Issues with 102 research articles by scholars from 22 different countries (69 Institutions) which include:

Afghanistan

The American University of Afghanistan

KU Leuven

Australia

University of Newcastle

Bulgaria

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Belgium

Canada

École Christ-Roi

University of Toronto

Egypt

Kafrelshiekh University

England

University of Chester

King's College London

Lancaster University

University of Sussex

Greece

Aristotle University

University of Athens

Hong Kong

City University of Hong Kong

India

Ambedkar University Delhi

Ashoka University

University of Calcutta

University of Delhi

English and Foreign Languages University

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

IISER Pune

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Indian Institute of Technology Gujrat

Jamia Millia Islamia

Jadavpur University

Jawaharlal Nehru University

University of Madras

Madras School of Social Work

Japan

University of Kitakyushu

Morocco

Ibn Tofail University

Netherlands

University of Groningen

Utrecht University

New Zealand

The University of Auckland

Nigeria

University of Ibadan

University of Ilorin

Singapore

National University of Singapore

Scotland

University of Aberdeen

University of Edinburgh

Spain

Pompeu Fabra University

Slovakia

Cormenius University

United States of America

University of California, Riverside

University of California, San Diego

California Polytechnic State University

University of Central Florida

Cerro Coso College

Colorado University

Columbia University

Concordia University

Eastern Kentucky University

Emory University

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Illinois State University

University of Maryland

Miami University

Missouri State University
Montclair State University
University of New York
The State University of New York
North Carolina State University
University of Oklahoma
Oregon State University
Quinnipiac University
Stanford University

University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, Dallas
University of Washington, Seattle
Wellesley College
Wilson College

Vietnam

Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences

9. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Impact

a. Inclusion of diverse voices; promotion of publishing opportunities for underrepresented scholars, societies, or groups

Inclusion of diverse and divergent discourse from not only hubs of scholarship around the world but from rural and indigenous areas which have limited knowledge and access to global scholarship is one of the main aims of E.L.A. Project. It is reflected in both the endeavours and outreach of *LLIDS* as well as Project Knowledge.

LLIDS promotes Open Access research in a demographic where there are but a handful of Open Access ventures. In a context where scholars are in the process of getting introduced to the potential of OA, *LLIDS* has come up as a research journal which has found support not only within the Indian sub-continent, but globally. Published research can be classified as follows:

North America — 31 papers from 30 institutions from

- Canada
- USA

Europe — 16 papers from 14 institutions from

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- England
- Greece
- Netherlands
- Scotland
- Slovakia
- Spain

Asia/Australia — 49 papers from 22 institutions from

- Afghanistan

- Egypt
- Hong Kong
- India
- Japan
- Singapore
- Vietnam
- Australia
- New Zealand

Africa — 6 papers from 3 institutions

- Ghana
- Morocco
- Nigeria

10. Indicators of Faculty Impact or Student Success

a. Include usage statistics

LLIDS is not indexed in any of the indices that calculate Impact factor. However, we understand our own impact through our engagement with scholars. Over the past 17 Issues, *LLIDS* has engaged with:

- Approximately 300 scholars from 37 countries through its peer reviewing engagements.
- Published approx. 100 scholars from various levels of scholarship:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Professors | 16 |
| Phd scholars/candidates | 43 |
| M. Phil. | 11 |
| MA | 24 |
| BA | 4 |
| Independent scholars | 4 |

11. Indication of improved access to unique content or services not otherwise available *Organization & Governance*

The number of Humanities and Interdisciplinary journals in India is disproportionately less than those dedicated to research in various fields of Science. DOAJ, for instance, indexes 419 journals

from the sub-continent of India, only 20 of which cater to the field of Humanities. Further, 5 of these journals have a scope to publish papers from the sub-field of Liberal studies and Interdisciplinary Studies. So, the space which *LLIDS* explores through its engagement with indigenous and global scholarship is rendered unique by both its geographical placement as well as its thematic concerns:

- *LLIDS* stands alone among all the journals indexed in DOAJ from the Indian sub-continent to furnish a space for research in Humanities while allowing for a discourse between varied indigenous intellectual landscapes and western scholarship.
- Each Volume of *LLIDS* is designed to explore a particular theme, contours of which are then chalked out through the four Issues which constitute the entire volume.
- It allows researchers to collate their insights with larger issues through rigorous inquiries.
- The breadth of its scope and discourse, as well as its author base, sets *LLIDS* apart from its counterparts.

12. Whether investment carries governance input

a. Statement on editorial independence or whether investors have a say in governance or article selection/journal direction

All policy and executive decisions pertaining to *LLIDS* are taken by its editorial team under the guidance of its founding members and the executive body of E.L.A. Project. Editorial decisions, pertaining directly to publications, are taken in consultation with the advisory editorial board members (<https://ellids.com/editorial-board/>), as per their specialization or interest in a particular research area. The final decision, however, remains the prerogative of the editorial team of *LLIDS*.

Funders/Investors have no say in either the governance of E.L.A. Project or the policy/publication decisions of *LLIDS*, including but not limited to article selection.

13. Commitment to advancing social justice and diversity

a. 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.

E.L.A. Project is committed to the incorporation of diversity and protects its OA statement and mission through its policies.

Open Access Statement - *LLIDS* has no embargo time and all its publications are immediately available in perpetuity from the date of publication itself. All published works are archived on *LLIDS* website as well as on archive.org.

Operating Principles

- E.L.A. Project is committed to publishing the Open Access academic journal, *Language, Literature, and Interdisciplinary Studies* (<https://ellids.com/>), which is a peer-reviewed journal and is free from financial barriers for both authors and readers.
- E.L.A. Project is committed to maintaining and growing Project Knowledge (<https://ellids.com/project-knowledge/>) in order to provide a database of Open Access resources for scholars.
- E.L.A. Project is committed to building and providing OA research resources and educational opportunities to scholars globally, irrespective of their financially disparate geographies and classes.

14. Author rights retention & licensing

LLIDS is published under a CC-BY-ND 4.0 International License. The copyright for all publications of *LLIDS* remains with its authors and *LLIDS* encourages self-archiving by the authors.

15. Compliance with relevant technical standards

a. 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

Digital preservation of research resources for their long-term accessibility is an important aspect of Open Access. In keeping with it, in addition to its website archive on www.ellids.com, all Issues of *LLIDS* are also archived on <https://archive.org/>, so that its publications may be available to the academic community in perpetuity. Project Knowledge remains accessible on <https://ellids.com/> with a regular Facebook feed to update scholars about new resources added to the database.

We plan to afford DOIs for all our existing and future publications along with metadata indexing as soon as our resources allow for the same.

16. Commitment to innovation and research & development

E.L.A. Project aims to evolve and expand further to engage scholars and facilitate an incorporation of diverse discourses from metropolitan as well as rural and indigenous populations. The ever-increasing scope of research and the ensuing varied perspectives demand flexible and transversing structures of research, and we are committed to exploring and creating the same.

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

E.L.A. Project is exploring multiple not-for-profit financial models to find a viable system for its sustenance that is in keeping with the legal nuances of the India sub-continent while satisfying the academic standards of both Indian and Western scholarship.