

Showcasing English Studies in and from Heidelberg

A Statement from the Editorial Team

Bruce Gaston, Natalie Stevenson, Cara Vorbeck, Oriana Yim, Vroni Zieglmeier (all Universität Heidelberg)

Our Mission

In an age when more is published than any researcher could ever read, the launch of a new journal requires a certain degree of confidence that one is not just reinventing the wheel. Can a journal in the crowded field of English Studies (we'll come back later to what we mean by that term) really offer something new? In our case, the answer is a resounding yes and no. By this, we mean that while we aspire to offer freshness, the *Heidelberg Journal of English Studies (HJES)*, based at the English Department of Germany's oldest university, is established on the precedent of its predecessor, *Contributions to the Study of Language, Literature and Culture* (2009–2013).

We are excited to announce that with this relaunch, we will be cooperating with Heidelberg's university library and their publishing service heiJOURNALS.¹ This cooperation provides us with access to the Open Journal Systems (OJS) publishing infrastructure, which will ensure the long-term archiving and citability of our research articles. The use of OJS means that all articles published by us will be assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). In addition, our journal will be made available to a wider audience, as anything published with heiJOURNALS is indexed in the *Zeitschriftdatenbank*,² in the *Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek*,³ and in the *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*.⁴

While the *HJES* will concentrate on publishing new articles, we also hope that the opportunities offered by the new open-access journal

publishing framework of heiJOURNALS will also allow us to move older articles over to a safer and more permanent home—one that is in addition freely available to anyone across the world. We are firm believers in the principles of Open Science: namely, that free and uncomplicated access to, and exchange of, information (especially scientific research) is of great benefit to society as a whole. To quote UNESCO: “Open science has the potential of making the scientific process more transparent, inclusive and democratic.”⁵ For that reason, all *HJES* articles will be published under a Creative Commons license (CC BY-SA 4.0).

This editorial statement outlines the mission and scope of the journal. In offering a low-threshold access point (while nonetheless maintaining academic standards) we aim to be a platform where junior researchers can learn about the process of academic publishing and showcase high-quality work that would otherwise only be available internally to a few people. Most articles will therefore be drawn from our academic body, though this is not a bar to submissions from elsewhere.

Reflecting the wide range of subjects taught and researched across our department, we are interpreting English Studies in its broadest sense: “English” meaning “English-language”, and therefore encompassing the whole diaspora of World Englishes, and not just the language itself, but also the literature, culture, and history of the countries where English is used, either as a native language or a lingua franca. At the end of the day, we will be publishing contributions based on their excellence rather than on an arbitrary, pre-decided list of criteria. Interdisciplinary and intercultural articles are therefore not excluded and we also remain open to the idea of producing special thematic issues.

These are the goals we have set ourselves at the beginning of this endeavour. We are excited to see how it will develop.

¹ University Library Heidelberg. “heiJOURNALS.” Accessed December 7, 2025. <https://journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/>.

² Deutsche Nationalbibliothek & Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. “ZDB-Katalog.” Accessed December 7, 2025. <https://zdb-katalog.de/>.

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³ UR Library Services. “Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek.” Accessed December 7, 2025. <https://ezb.ur.de/>.

⁴ DOAJ. “Directory of Open Access Journals.” 2025. Accessed December 7, 2025. <https://doaj.org/>.

⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). “About Open Science.” Accessed December 7, 2025. <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/about/>.