The CLOCKSS Archive -- Value Proposition
March 2022

Preservation is content insurance. When scholarly content transitioned to electronic delivery, academic libraries realized that they no longer hold copies of the content. These libraries do not feel secure that the content they license from publishers is guaranteed to always be accessible to the library's users. CLOCKSS is a trusted 3d-party preservation archive. Its TRAC audit by the Center for Research Libraries has a score of 14 out of 15, including perfect scores for Technologies, Technical Infrastructure, Security, and for Organizational Infrastructure. When libraries contribute to CLOCKSS, they safeguard the long-term survival of digital content in their libraries, maximizing return on investment and ensuring use for future generations.

CLOCKSS provides it. The CLOCKSS Archive holds a publisher's content on twelve [servers](#) around the world, in a "dark" archive (i.e., users do not have access to the archived content, unless it is "triggered" for access, see below). Using the [LOCKSS](#) software, CLOCKSS ensures that the digital data is healthy, so that if the content ever needs to be triggered for access, CLOCKSS is able to retrieve it and deliver it.

CLOCKSS is governed by the community. CLOCKSS is a free-standing charitable, non-profit organization in the U.S. Its [Board of Directors](#) is comprised by twelve leading academic libraries, and twelve leading academic publishers. The Board discusses and sets policies, practices, and prices.

CLOCKSS is supported by the community and is financially strong. CLOCKSS receives fees from over 435 publishers, and contributions from 300 libraries. CLOCKSS annual revenues are $1.7 million, with a small annual surplus, and $1 million cash on hand.

CLOCKSS triggers are Open Access. In the rare cases that CLOCKSS triggers content, it is made available Open Access to everyone. CLOCKSS has [triggered](#) 66 journals, out of the more than 34,000 journals in the CLOCKSS system. Before CLOCKSS triggers content for access, it must be approved by the Board.

CLOCKSS has flexible and robust processes. CLOCKSS can access publishers' content by [harvest](#) or [FTP](#). The harvest method is especially helpful for capturing more elements of new dynamic and evolving forms of digital scholarship.

CLOCKSS is a partner to libraries and publishers. As a member of the scholarly publishing community, the CLOCKSS Archive is a "good citizen", providing a key infrastructure service, and participating in industry activities and contributing to the evolution of the academic literature.