

Letter from the Editors

In early 2009, we decided that our long-running scholarly journal, the *Annual Review of Jazz Studies* (ARJS)—published by the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS), at the Newark campus of Rutgers University—should be transformed into an “open-access” digital publication, available free online. We would publish twice yearly, and thus revert to our original title, spanning the years 1973 to 1979: the *Journal of Jazz Studies* (JJS).

Why move online? First, we were laboring in unnecessary obscurity. Retail prices were too high. Publication delays were too long for time-sensitive reviews. Articles were unavailable through online databases. With open access, the material is immediately free to all, without any sacrifice in quality control.

Second, open access offers clear technological advantages. All websites cited in this issue are live hyperlinks. And articles will eventually incorporate reader responses, author updates, and multimedia—clicking music examples to hear music clips, for example.

Third, we stand behind the principle that unpaid scholarly work belongs in the public realm. Publishers of academic print journals generally receive free product and free editing—both indirectly subsidized by taxpayers—and then charge libraries whatever the market will bear. Open-access publishing is an ideal remedy for this oligopolistic practice.

The open-access movement has steadily gained momentum. 10% to 15% of peer-reviewed journals are now open-access, and a survey by the Association of Research Libraries found that 65% of surveyed libraries are involved in journal publishing or plan to be involved soon. (JJS is hosted online by the Rutgers University Library.) Many foundations and government agencies require open-access publication of grant-funded scholarship. Europe is ahead on this front; in the Netherlands, the major universities have created a single open-access repository for peer-reviewed articles. In 2009, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California at Berkeley announced their joint commitment to open-access publishing.

Open access has already reached the world of jazz studies. In 2009, independent scholar Michael Fitzgerald launched *Current Research in Jazz* (www.crj-online.org), the first peer-reviewed open-access journal devoted exclusively to jazz. *Critical Studies in Improvisation* (www.criticalimprov.com), an open-access journal based at the University of Guelph, includes some jazz material.

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property in the Internet age. JJS material may be copied and shared without restriction, as long as it is used noncommercially, and the authors and journal receive proper attribution.

Whatever the publishing format, the *Journal of Jazz Studies* sticks by the standards of its print predecessors, and no iconoclastic editorial manifesto is forthcoming. We remain dedicated to the entire range of jazz studies, from technical analyses to oral history to cultural interpretation—plus the occasional jazz sonnet—and if a submission is rigorous, original, and insightful, we will publish it.

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The *Journal of Jazz Studies* (JJS) is published by the Institute of Jazz Studies at the Newark campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The editors of JJS are Edward Berger, Henry Martin, and Dan Morgenstern; the managing editor is Evan Spring. JJS is hosted online by the Rutgers University Libraries at <http://jjs.libraries.rutgers.edu>.