



**THE LITERARY ENCYCLOPEDIA**  
Exploring literature, history and culture

**ANNUAL COMPANY AND PUBLISHING REPORT  
2021**

Our Report for 2020 anticipated adverse funding for higher education humanities around the world. We were therefore sorry but not surprised to lose three subscriptions -- from the Universities of Utah and East-Central in the US, and Winchester University in the UK – and the more pleased to gain subscriptions from the Universities of Pennsylvania, North Dakota, and Western Ontario, as well as Aoyama Gaku University in Japan and two of the most prestigious universities in Bangladesh, Independent University and the University of Liberal Arts. *The Literary Encyclopedia* thus remains in good shape.

### Expansion

We will be pursuing an active subscription campaign across 2022-3. As part of this drive, we would like to stress once again the need for all our shareholders to encourage institutional subscriptions. For our part, we are also constantly improving our platform's ease of use, extending our global coverage, and increasing recommendations for critical reading.

### Financial Report 2020-2021

	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Income</b>	100,737	99,250
<b>Expenses</b>	51,429	76,877
Of which		
Accountancy & Bank charges	3,327	3,109
Wages, pensions and employment taxes	39,124	44,319
Software development, servers and licenses	11,735	11,980
General expenses (insurance, entertainment, marketing)	3,852	3,851
Currency depreciation/appreciation	(+795)	13,618
Earnings above costs	49,308	22,673
Royalties and Dividends	44,444	40,000

Profit declared to the UK tax authorities has been reduced by £13,618 because our US dollar reserves depreciated by 10% against GBP between May 2020 and April 2021, constituting a loss. Since then, half of this depreciation has been reversed so we hope to see a currency gain in next year's accounts. We have therefore decided to make up the royalty fund from the company's financial reserves. Our reserves will amount to above £70,000 after these royalty payments have been disbursed.

### 2018-2021

Taking a multi-year view, and bearing in mind that much of income derives from the United States, *The Literary Encyclopedia's* income, adjusted for exchange-rates, has remained more or

less stable since 2018-19, ranging from £115,000 to £100,000 in sterling terms. Since 2018 we have increased our expenditure on staff by around 10% and in the last 18 months increased expenditure on software development by 35% as we have moved to the latest generation of servers, upgraded processing power and capability, and updated core software. We have carried multiple software improvements across a suite of applications, notably improving Recommended Reading and rebuilding the homepage. We hope to reduce expenditure on software in 2022.

Our platform charges from our hosts, Amazon Cloud, remain extraordinarily reasonable, especially given a 24/7 service which never fails. Hats off to them, whatever other critical reflections we might be inclined to make.

### **Debt**

The Company continues to benefit from a loan of £85,000 from the founding editor Robert Clark and his wife Marianne Majerus which will be repaid when the company can afford it.

### **Remuneration and Staffing**

*The Literary Encyclopedia* remains highly efficient and low-cost in its administrative overheads, aiming to maximise returns to its authors and editors. In common with other Editors, Robert Clark, as Editorial Director, receives no remuneration for his work on the publication other than in royalties paid on his shareholding. The Managing Editor Dr. Cristina Sandru, and Assistant Editor Dr. Jessica Gossling are contractually employed and we will increase their wages by 5% in 2022 to keep pace with inflation. Software and server maintenance are sub-contracted.

Our full list of institutional subscribers is at <http://www.litencyc.com/subscriberlist.php>. If your own institution is not listed and you would like to arrange for a trial to be set up, please get in touch with us. It cannot be said too often that our contributors are our best ambassadors.

## **PUBLISHING REPORT**

This year we passed the milestone of 19 million words published, and offered a great range of improvements and enrichments across our very many volumes. The extent of our scholarly achievement makes us all the more vexed by our failure to achieve major increases in our number of subscribing institutions. We wish to have many more readers, and be accepted as the most esteemed reference work or literary studies. The most significant headwind we face is that large commercial publishing corporations have developed their ability to offer “bulk deals” comprising titles of very variable quality, intending to dominate the market by mere quantity. This saturation technique has been finely examined in two articles by Vincent Lariviere, a professor in the school of library science at the Université de Montréal, and a group of co-authors around the world (please see *College and Research Libraries*, 2018 and 2021, <https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/16829/18997> and <https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/24833> ) which we urge you to bring to your librarians’ attention. The authors reveal how current commercial practices have enabled

international scholarly publishing corporations to increase their revenues out of proportion to the economic conditions of the higher education sector. These articles need to be read in conjunction with Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the most salient of numerous scholarly works which have described the steep increase in financial inequalities across the last 25 years. University teachers do not need to be told about the decline in their remuneration relative to other financial indicators and the degradation of conditions of employment.

*The Literary Encyclopedia* was founded in the hope that the "internet revolution" could lead to more egalitarian and equitable world and is resolved to take a more robust stance in its pursuit of further subscriptions, asking all librarians and teaching colleagues to recognise the profound ethical and philosophical distinctions between our conception of scholarly publishing and those which are becoming dominant elsewhere. We intend that *The Literary Encyclopedia* will provide a model which we would wish other scholarly publications to follow.

This conception of our role underlies many changes we have made this year to our interface which are intended to manifest the large scholarly community which has made *The Literary Encyclopedia* possible and which owns it in common. We now invite users who visit our homepage to consult a list of recent publications by our editors and contributors; we have launched this year a bi-annual newsletter which gives a succinct account of the publication's successes, future projects, and work-in-progress, as well as share news and announcements from our community of scholars; and we have launched the two annual *Literary Encyclopedia Prizes*, one for scholarly books about literature originally in English, the other for scholarly books about literature originally in other languages than English. We were delighted to be able to give significant cash prizes from our Scholarship Fund to two young scholars, James Robert Wood and Jeff Barda, whose work exemplified the high standards of research, thought and expression which we all hope to achieve in our own work. To judge from communications we have had about the 2022 prizes, the announcement of these prizes in the *London Review of Books* has made many more people aware of the significance of our publication and of our scholarly engagement.

### **CONTENT AND GROWTH; SAMPLE OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES**

The rate of publication in 2021 was as robust as ever: 125 new 'people' profiles; 159 'works' articles; 25 substantial 'context' essays. In addition, we have made further progress with updates to older articles, with 25 new revisions published.

#### **People articles:**

bell hooks - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=5979>

Edward Carpenter - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=749>

Elena Ferrante - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=14614>

Mohammed Hanif - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=13392>

Meister Johannes Eckhart - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=5554>

## Works articles:

George R. R. Martin, *A Game of Thrones* –  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=39018>  
François Mauriac, *Thérèse Desqueyroux* -  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=24189>  
Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience* -  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=5958>  
Alfred Tennyson, *Idylls of the King* -  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=4585>  
Susan Sontag, *On Photography* -  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=3061>

## Context essays:

[Eighteenth-Century Literary Culture in the French Antilles](https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19610) -  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19610>  
[English Painting 1770-1830](https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19615) - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19615>  
[The abbé de Saint-Pierre and British pacifism](https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19632) -  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19632>  
[Fabloaux](https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19630) - <https://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=19630>

+ a series of interconnected articles on important literary magazines and periodicals, authored by Prof. Chris Baldick, our early 20<sup>th</sup> c. English poetry editor: see under <https://www.litencyc.com/php/showgrouparticles.php?articlegroupid=28>

## SOFTWARE AND SITE DEVELOPMENT

We have radically overhauled our Homepage, which now brings improvements in accessibility, and a more direct and impactful way of showcasing the best of our content. By making a handful of different articles free for browsing (we will change these periodically), we hope that it will attract the attention of librarians as well as increase our readership. In addition, we have included a section on new publications by our contributors and editors, which highlights the diverse and dynamic nature of our scholarly community. The work on the homepage was coupled with upgrades in the layout and accessibility protocols on mobile platforms; accessing the *LE* on tablets and mobile phones now provides a seamless browsing experience.

Another aspect we have been working on and which is nearly finalised is an upgrade on our user access statistics to COUNTER v. 5, and an integration of our recommended readings section (now standing at more than 28,000 critical readings listed) with the OpenURL application used by most university libraries, allowing rapid cross-linking to other existing library resources. These are both major enhancements to the “ease of use” for our platform.

## IMPACT STATISTICS

Contributors can view the number of times their articles have been accessed by logging in and visiting **MyLE Account**, under the section *Your Articles and Shareholding*:  
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/members/contributors/articleviews.php>

We thank you all for your support and hope that when Cristina and Jessica send you announcements of our prizes, travel grants and encouragements to librarians to subscribe, you will take a moment to spread the news to students and colleagues.