



Canada's non- commercial journals

Jessica Lange, McGill University
Sarah Severson, University of Alberta

Who are Canada's non-commercial journals?



Number of Canadian
non-commercial
journals in 2020

485

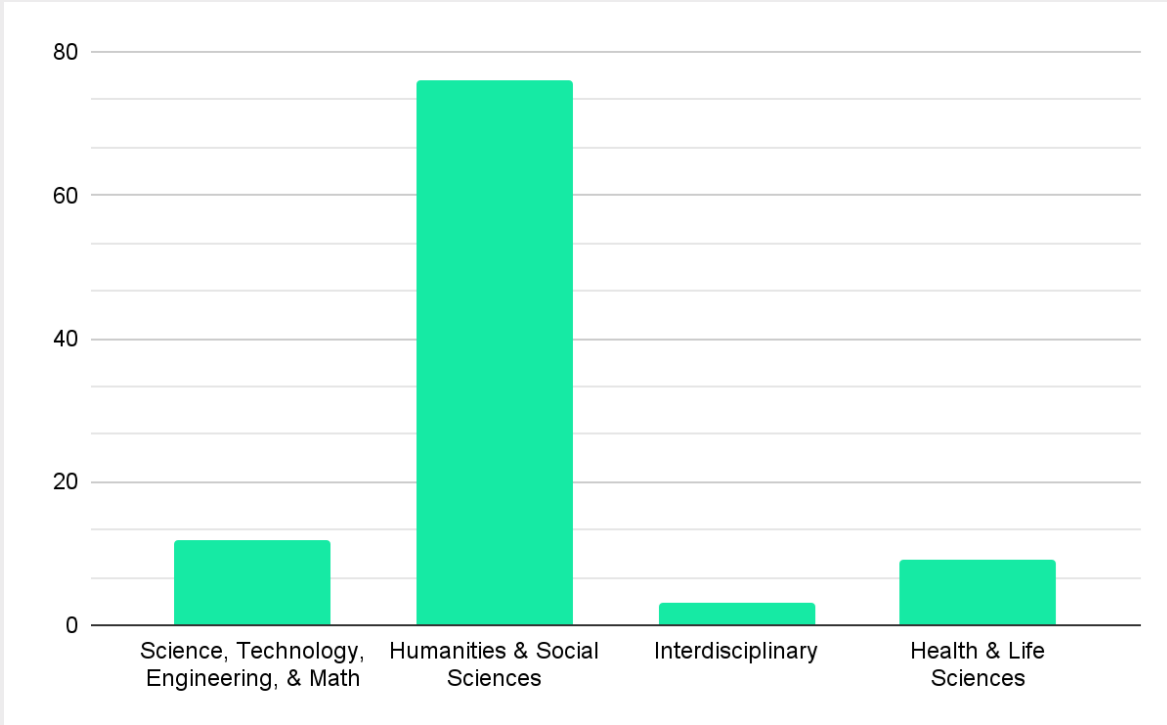
60% **Diamond Open Access**

Are associated with
a library host or
publisher

32%

97% **Of these Open Access
journals charged no
author fees**

Canadian non-commercial journals by subject area



How are these journals being run?



Compensation & Labour

★ How much do they work?

- Editor-in-chief, managing editors and editorial assistants (most likely to work 7+ hours/week)
- Editor-in-chief and managing editors have greatest variety of tasks

▲ Who's getting paid?

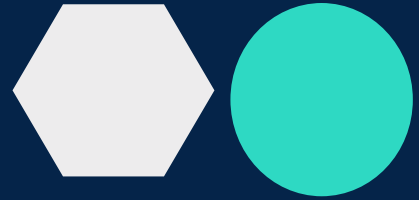
- Editorial assistants, managing editors, production staff (e.g. copy editing etc.)
- 69% of journals paid at least one staff member

● Where's the money coming from?

- 70% of funds came from universities or associations

	Recruit new members for the journal team	Manuscript solicitation	Reviewing submissions before peer review	Assignment of reviewers	Communication between authors and reviewers	Control of workflow	Copyediting	Layout/typesetting	Proofreading	Content scheduling	Promotion of the journal	Subscription management	Updating the website	Indexing application
Editor-in-chief	53	35	37	40	24	40	12	9	18	39	29	13	17	35
Section editor/ Associate editor	11	17	22	16	20	8	8	6	8	13	9	3	4	7
Managing editor	12	8	15	17	23	37	12	15	10	27	15	15	28	23
Editorial Assistant	0	1	3	6	13	12	4	6	9	3	4	8	11	9
Layout editor	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	33	1	0	0	1	2	0
Copyeditor	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	10	13	0	0	0	0	0
Proofreader	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Webmaster	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	14	2
Advisory board	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	3	2	4	5	10	23	5	8	7	28	17	13
N/a	6	14	0	2	1	2	2	1	5	6	9	37	6	15
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Shared responsibility	29	30	32	34	29	10	19	8	33	16	38	4	10	4
Total responses	111	106	114	117	114	114	115	114	114	113	112	109	109	111

How do they work?



“Nucleus of activity”

- Collaborative but with a locus of work centred on a certain set of the editorial team

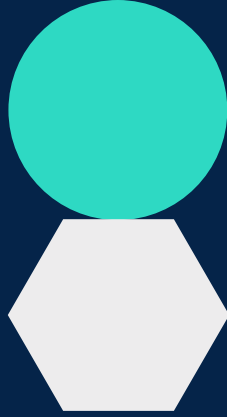
“Extra article” tasks

- Journals are more than publishing articles
 - Applying for grants
 - Hiring/onboarding new team members
 - Policy review etc.
- These tasks typically fall to Editor-in-Chief

Editorial advisory boards

- Used in a limited manner
- Desire to use more effectively

What are their challenges?



Funding


- Funding is patchwork, inconsistent, and from a variety of sources.
- Funding influences staffing decisions

Recognition / Staffing

- Editorial service isn't well-recognized in tenure and promotion
- Hard to recruit people to serve / find the right skill set
- Scaling up with more people is not always viable

Peer review

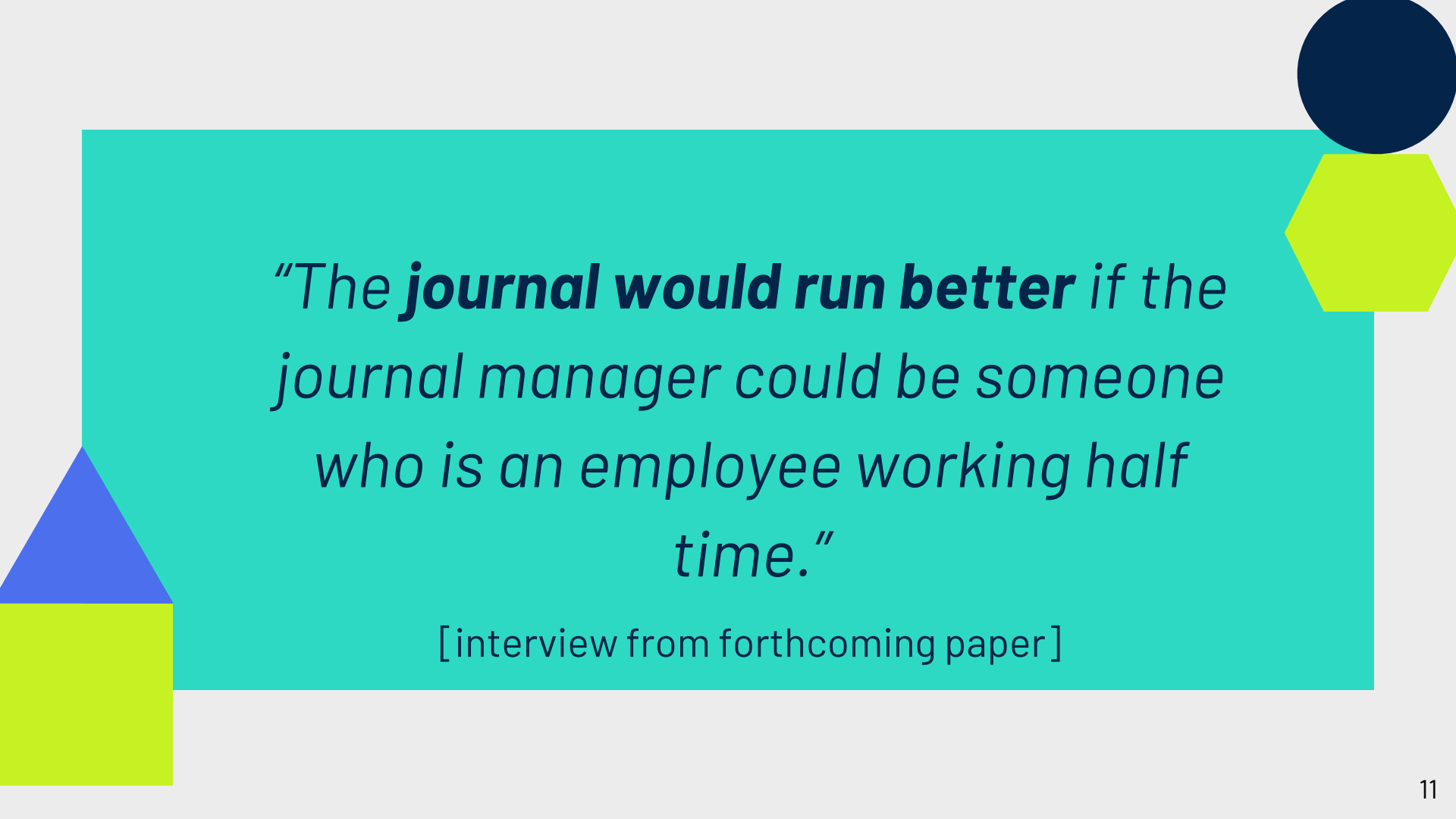
- Near universally a problem



*“It is challenging to get institutions to **recognize this labour** for promotion, tenure, and review purposes – Does work with a journal count as service or as research?*

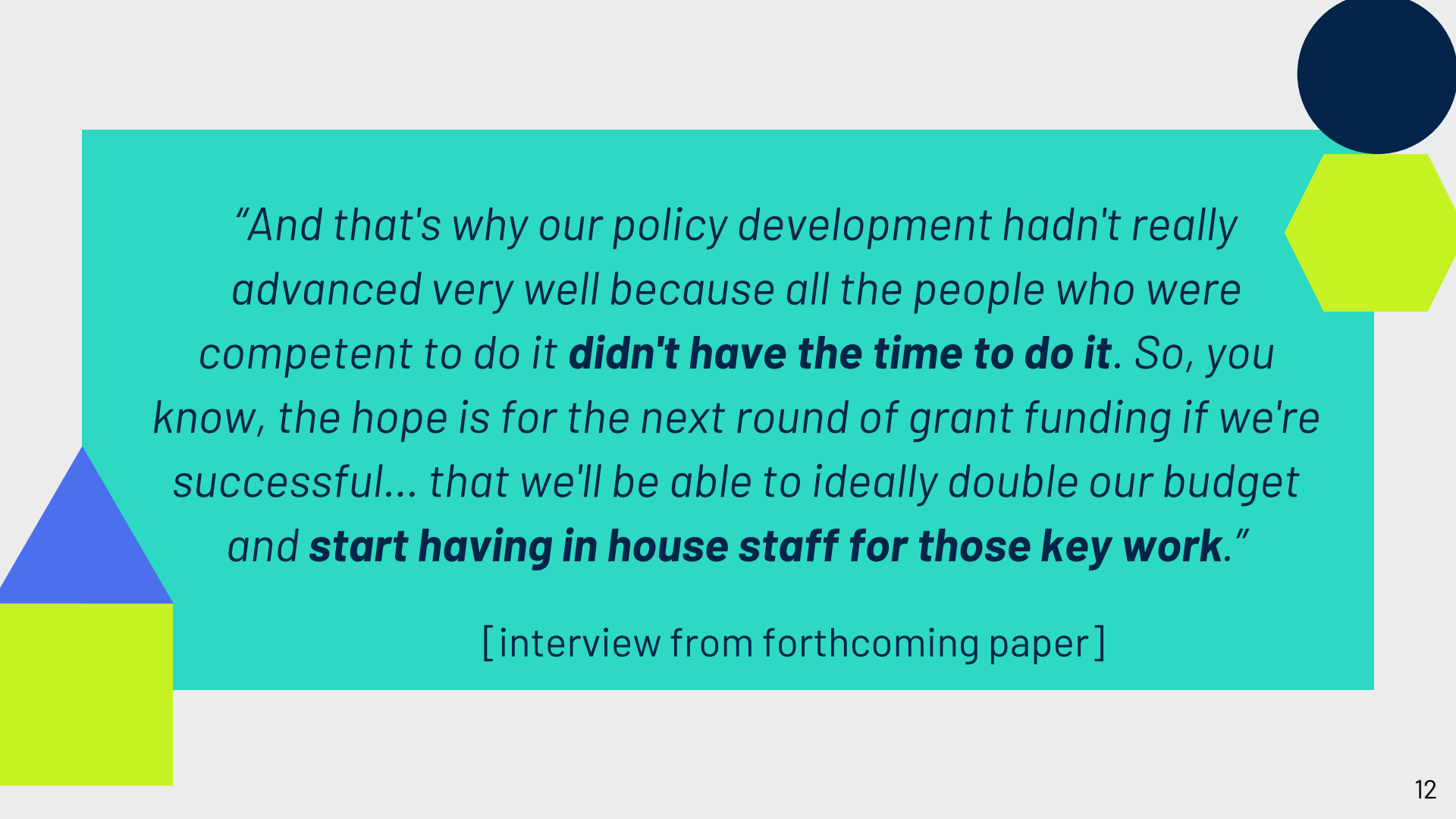
Does it count for anything?”

[comment from survey]




*“The **journal would run better** if the journal manager could be someone who is an employee working half time.”*

[interview from forthcoming paper]



*“And that's why our policy development hadn't really advanced very well because all the people who were competent to do it **didn't have the time to do it**. So, you know, the hope is for the next round of grant funding if we're successful... that we'll be able to ideally double our budget and **start having in house staff for those key work.**”*

[interview from forthcoming paper]



“[the organization’s structure] actually been like this for quite a while, but there is conversations right now about **what to do because it just keeps getting busier.**

So that is something that we've been exploring and talking about **how to solve that problem.**

Like... an assistant of some sorts to deal with things like submissions ... ?”

[interview from forthcoming paper]

3 papers on Canada's non- commercial journals



Characteristics

Lange, J & Severson, S. (2021, 10 12). What Are the Characteristics of Canadian Independent, Scholarly Journals? Results from a Website Analysis. The Journal of Electronic Publishing 24(1) doi: [10.3998/jep.153](https://doi.org/10.3998/jep.153)



Labour & Compensation

Lange, J., & Severson, S. (2022). Work It: Looking at Labour and Compensation in Canadian Non-Commercial Scholarly Journals. KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies , 6(2), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.18357/kula.151>



Organizational structures

Forthcoming (thanks CARL)

Thank you!

Questions?



Jessica Lange

jessica.lange@mcgill.ca



Sarah Severson

sarah.severson@ualberta.ca

Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- Photographs by [Pexels](#)

Happy designing!

