



# **Open Access in the Humanities: a case study of developing three open- access electronic journals in Greece**

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- Introduction
- Experiences – lessons learnt
- Assessment – future prospects

## Overview of EKT activities and role

- Part of National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) - oldest research centre in Greece
- Research and technology content and services:
  - National doctoral theses archive
    - 15,000+ theses on line, 3.500.000 pages in total
  - Development of repositories and e-journals
  - Union catalogues of journals that Greek Academic Libraries subscribe, municipal libraries etc.
  - Home-grown software for library automation (2200 installations)
  - Digitization services for cultural and scientific content
  - Development of CRIS - research results dissemination
- Services for the academic/research community:
  - International cooperation, Enterprise Europe Network, National Contact Point for FP7, research metrics extraction

## Identity

- Co-funded by the EU (3rd Community Support Framework) and national authorities
- Part of a larger project “National Information System of Research and Technology”

## Main goals

- Increase support for OA in Greece by establishing infrastructures such as repositories and e-journals that afford digitization, permanent storage and free world-wide dissemination of the scientific output produced at NHRF
- Transform existing print Humanities journals to electronic

# The Greek landscape

- Plethora of significant historical/cultural content
- Large number of internationally important print publications in the Humanities
- Major digitisation projects from various bodies
- Increased participation in eContentPlus / ICT PSP
- ~20 OA journals listed in DOAJ, > 20 OA repositories in OpenDOAR / ROAR
- [openaccess.gr](http://openaccess.gr) -> greek portal for OA
- Increased awareness of Humanities community on open access and electronic publishing
- Nonetheless, reservation towards digital scholarship and scientific legitimacy of e-publishing, perceived threat towards disappearance of print materials.

- **Byzantina Symmeikta ([byzsym.org](http://byzsym.org))**
  - ✓ Byzantine Studies
  - ✓ First published (print) in 1966
  - ✓ Languages: Greek, English, French, German and Italian
- **The Historical Review ([historicalreview.org](http://historicalreview.org))**
  - ✓ Contemporary history (mainly Greek)
  - ✓ First published (print) in 2004
  - ✓ Languages: English, French
  - ✓ Indexed by ISI
- **Tekmeria ([tekmeria.org](http://tekmeria.org))**
  - ✓ Studies on Greek and Roman antiquity
  - ✓ First published (print) in 1995
  - ✓ Languages: Greek, English, French, German and Italian

# The key challenge

- Make it interesting, useful and attractive for Humanities researchers!
- Digitisation of past material – increased accessibility
- Immediate, per article publication
- Continuous promotion, support and training
  - Hire somebody that speaks their “language”
- Technical quality of implementation
  - Professional appearance of web site
  - Robust, usable procedures for journal staff
- Addressing custom, domain-specific requirements

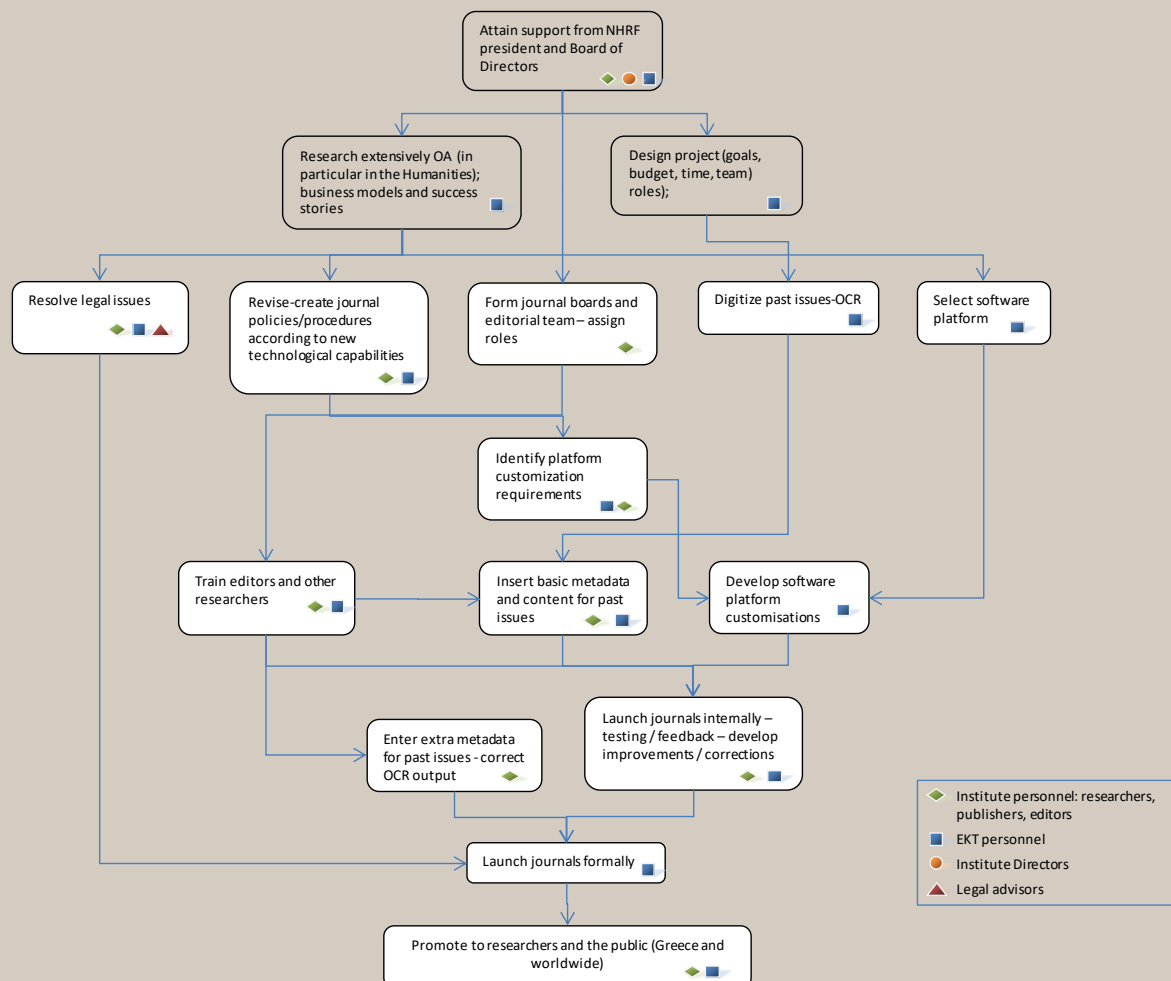
- Strong and consistent involvement of researchers throughout the project
- Editorial and review procedures of very high quality comparable to those of valued international journals



# Key tasks in journal development

- Providing training and continuous support to the researchers
- Selection of e-journal software platform (OJS)
- OJS customisations
- Development of staging/deployment IT environment
- Retroactive digitisation and metadata generation
- Resolution of legal issues
- Promotion activities

# Journal implementation process





# BYZANTINA SYMMEIKTA

BYZANTINA SYMMEIKTA



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Professor Taxiarchis G. Koliass  
Director of Institute for Byzantine Research

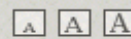
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## Announcements

By visiting the journal's website, academics and researchers in the field of Byzantine Studies can, from now on, submit articles and book reviews. To submit an article, follow the steps below:

1. In the "REGISTER" section of the journal's website, fill in the registration form by selecting the "Author" role. Disregard this step in case you have already/previously registered
2. Go to the "USER HOME" page and select the "Author" role
3. In the "Active Submissions" section select the page "Start a New Submission"
4. Then follow the five-step submission process to upload your article



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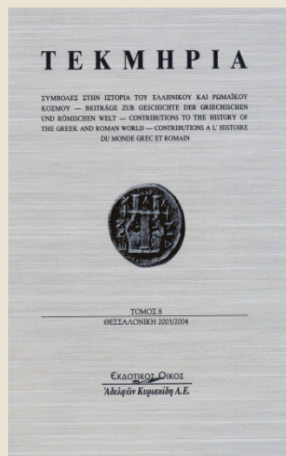
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## Archive



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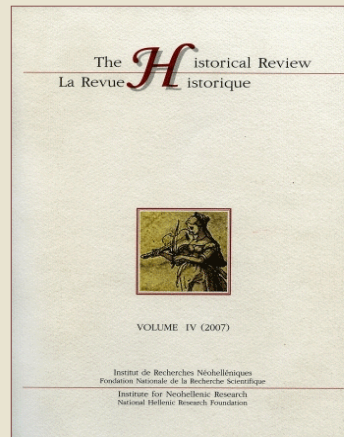
Silver tetradrachm of Philip II (359-336 BC): Head of Olympius Zeus wearing a laurel wreath.



## A WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

"The inauguration of the electronic version of our *Historical Review/La Revue Historique* represents a further step forward in the effort undertaken by the Institute for Neohellenic Research to make historical research carried out in Greece accessible to the international community of scholars. It also extends once again our invitation to the international scholarly community to join us in a dialogue and exchange of ideas on the broad range of issues and questions, substantive, theoretical and methodological, preoccupying the human sciences today. I trust that the electronic version of the *Historical Review/La Revue Historique* will serve these purposes and also expand the range of the contributions we receive and enhance the quality of our Review."

**Paschalis M. Kitromilides**  
Director of Institute for Neohellenic Research



[Vol 4 \(2007\)](#)

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## Focus and Scope

*The Historical Review / La Revue Historique* is an annual refereed journal of historical research in the human sciences published by the Institute for Neohellenic Research (INR) of the *National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)* since 2004. It was established as a medium of communication and exchange of ideas with colleagues around the world. We invite original papers and critical perspectives from a wide range of fields within Modern Greek studies, but are not limited to it. Our intention is to provide a medium of dialogue and reflection in the broad field of historical study in the human sciences. In the effort to intensify scholarly dialogue the INR has decided to take advantage of electronic publishing to provide open access to the full content of the journal. A fully electronic publication management system ensures a speedy process, and offers authors the ability to follow the progress of their manuscripts through the publication process. Revised manuscripts of accepted articles are published immediately upon submission of the final version. Each volume comprises the total of the articles published during the year. The print edition appears at the end of every year. The *Greek Documentation Center (EKT)*, also part of the NHRF, provides publication management and technical support for the electronic publication of *The Historical Review / La Revue Historique*.

- Editorial process managed entirely online
- Immediate, per-article publication
- Encouraging volume and good quality of access statistics
- All of 17 past volumes scanned. Roughly 150 of 250 papers freely accessible online
- Full-text, metadata search

- High initial cost that pays off with more implementations
- Raised awareness about e-scholarly communication among the Greek Humanities community
- Increased requests from the Humanities community in Greece to turn print journals to electronic ones
- Positive impact to other relevant activities (e.g., institutional repositories)
- Need for at least one more year of organisational support and training to the research institutes

- Further develop e-journal publishing as a service
- Technical infrastructure appropriate for large scale deployments
- E-book publishing
- Development of an academic e-press within NHRF

# Thank you!

Further Information: [nhoussos@ekt.gr](mailto:nhoussos@ekt.gr) and [www.openaccess.gr](http://www.openaccess.gr)