

Preserving genesis Literature & Art Magazine

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In spring 2018, the IUPUI University Library began a partnership with *genesis Literature & Art Magazine* to digitize its back issues and make them [openly available via the Library's digital publishing service](#). Since 1972, this biannual magazine has showcased IUPUI students' creative work, including art, poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. Nearly as old as IUPUI itself, *genesis* is the longest-running student publication and second oldest student group on campus.

Generations of IUPUI students have shared their creative work in *genesis* and it provides a unique lens through which to view the growth of our campus. "A literary journal can capture the spirit of a time and place," says Sarah Layden, writer and faculty advisor to *genesis*. "We share our life experiences through the art we create, so the poems, stories, and images in *genesis* tell a story about IUPUI over the years."

Beyond providing an important venue for student self-expression, *genesis* affords its student editors hands-on experience producing a professional-quality publication. "Working on *genesis* can be fantastic experience for a variety of job skills: collaboration and communication, critical thinking and constructive feedback, layout, editing, and more," says Layden. "Artists and writers gain experience with the publication process, which can be daunting without prior knowledge of its protocols." As a learning opportunity for students and as a cultural artifact, *genesis* matters to IUPUI.

However, the back issues, which previously existed only in print, were vulnerable to deterioration over time. "We have 1-2 print copies of each issue on file, but if something were to happen to them pre-digitization, that history would've been lost," says Layden. So, with the 50th anniversary of IUPUI looming, the University Library Center for Digital Scholarship began digitizing the 90 issues in June 2018. By the end of August, the files were ready to upload to the library's [Open Access Journals at IUPUI platform](#), which runs on Open Journals Systems (OJS).

Making *genesis* open access resonated with the student editorial board and faculty advisor. "Students who take English W280, Literary Editing and Publishing, apprentice to work on the magazine by discussing many facets of publishing, and access is a huge issue: who has access to what resources, and who benefits from those resources," says Layden. "The mission of the Open Access Journals [at IUPUI] is extremely appealing to a student-run publication. The digital format allows a much wider distribution of each issue, plus the

ability for students to create digital portfolios for writing, editing, and art.” This open ethos extends to how the student editors run *genesis*, accepting submissions from students across the campus regardless of their program or degree.

The digital archive of *genesis* back issues went live November 2018 and was debuted at the fall 2018 issue launch party. Since then, this archive has received more than 1200 visits by users around the world. University Library is currently working with the student editors to develop a workflow to digitally publish new issues alongside the print, expanding the reach of IUPUI students and their creative work.