As of early 2016, Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice (PaLRaP) is now included in the Directory of Open Access Journals, also known as DOAJ (doaj.org). This online directory is the largest and most well-known source for identifying quality, peer-reviewed open access journals and the articles published within them.

In addition to being included in DOAJ, PaLRaP also received the DOAJ seal of approval. While all of the journals in the directory have been evaluated and deemed to be of substantial quality “the [DOAJ] seal is an extra mark of approval that is awarded to journals” for adhering to “outstanding best practice”. As of June 2016 only 393, approximately four percent, of the 9,074 journals in DOAJ have been awarded this special designation.

According to DOAJ, “journals that are awarded the seal have answered ‘yes’ to seven questions that DOAJ has chosen specifically as indicators of an extra high and clear commitment to open access best practices, of extra high levels of commitment to publishing technologies, and the most ‘open’ form of open access”.

The seven conditions identified by DOAJ that must be met to obtain the seal are:

- Use of DOIs as permanent identifiers;
- Article metadata provided to DOAJ;
- Content deposited with a long-term digital preservation or archiving program;
- Machine-readable CC licensing information embedded in articles;
- Generous reuse and mixing of content allowed, in accordance with a CC BY, CC BY-SA or CC BY-NC license;
- A deposit policy registered with a deposit policy registry;
- Allows the author to hold the copyright without restrictions.

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the University of Pittsburgh publishing team for helping PaLRaP to achieve this status.

PaLRaP can be found in the Directory of Open Access Journals at https://doaj.org/toc/2324-7878.

Tom Reinsfelder (tlr15@psu.edu) and Anne Behler (behler@psu.edu) are co-editors of Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice (PaLRaP). Tom is reading Knowledge Unbound by Peter Suber and Anne is reading Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates.