

Annual Report 2025



DIGITAL
SCHOLAR

Table of Contents

From the CEOs	3
Operating Principles	5
Officers and Directors	6
Project Updates	7
Omeka	8
PressForward	10
Digital Humanities Now	10
Sourcery	12
Tropy	14
Zotero	16

From the CEOs

2025 has been filled with challenges across the political, social, and cultural landscape, and those challenges can make it difficult to focus on the work of digital scholarship and digital cultural heritage. Nonetheless, as an independent not-for-profit organization, Digital Scholar is committed to advancing its work to support free and open access to research materials, scholarship, and cultural heritage collections. Each of our projects plays a role in upholding those values. We remain dedicated not only to sustaining and maintaining the projects on which our users have come to depend, but also to iterating and innovating new approaches.

As our projects have expanded over the years, Digital Scholar has also built up its project teams, core leadership, and administrative staff—so much so that in January 2026 we will move into significantly larger office space. Midyear, Sheila Brennan came on board as the Director of Institutional Relations, and Khiara Reed joined as Executive Administrative Assistant. In October, Sean Takats joined Digital Scholar full-time to serve as Co-Chief Executive Officer alongside Sharon Leon, who had served as Chief Operating Officer since 2023. In December, Andy Privee completed his final year as Digital Scholar’s Chief Financial Officer. We are deeply grateful to Andy for his service over the last decade (and for his prior service at the Rosenzweig Center when Zotero and Omeka were just getting off the ground), and we wish him well in his retirement adventures. With Andy’s retirement, we are pleased to welcome Debi Demeule as our new CFO. Together these individuals provide the backbone that makes it possible for us to lead our open source software projects.

In December, the entire Digital Scholar team of 34 gathered in two sites to hold our first All-Hands meeting. Designers, developers, end-user support managers, outreach associates, and a host of other staff and board members spent two days considering the ways that our projects can support one another, discussing user feedback, and making plans for future development and collaboration.

While Digital Scholar is dedicated to the ongoing development of its software, the organization is also focused on supporting and engaging with the digital humanities community as a whole. We are in ongoing conversations with stakeholders across the field about a path forward for digital humanities work in light of the current administrative, institutional, and funding realities. As always, we are committed to supporting allied organizations and events in the field through conference sponsorships, memberships, and fiscal sponsorship relationships. During 2025, Digital Scholar invested in the work of The Programming Historian, Knowledge Commons, the DH2025 annual meeting, the Museum Computing Network conference, the Digital Library Federation conference, and a host of other projects and centers.

Each of these efforts marks our commitment to sustaining a vital community of practice that can ensure that the field continues to have access to open-source infrastructure, open-access resources, and spaces for open dialogue about our work.

Best regards,
Sharon Leon and Sean Takats
Co-Chief Executive Officers



*Digital Scholar team connecting
virtually in Falls Church and
Luxembourg City, December 2025*

Operating Principles

Mission

Digital Scholar is dedicated to launching, supporting, and sustaining critical open-source infrastructure for the digital humanities through responsible stewardship and ethical business practices. In doing so, DS is devoted to defending the right of the public to freely obtain, develop, and distribute free and open source software, and to supporting FOSS projects as they pursue sustainability.

Our Values

We are committed to developing and sustaining free and open source software that provides an infrastructure for scholarly research and digital cultural heritage work.

We are committed to working in a respectful and collaborative way among our project staff and with the community of users and developers who engage with our software.

We are committed to providing responsibly-priced services that meet user community needs and contribute to the sustainability of the software projects.

We are committed to working in productive collaboration with other FOSS projects to pursue sustainability.

Officers and Directors

Sean Takats
President and Co-CEO

Sharon Leon
Vice President and Co-CEO

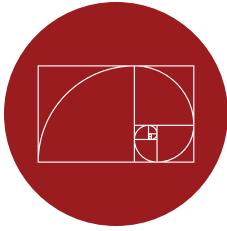
Tom Scheinfeldt
Secretary/Treasurer, Director

Dan Cohen
Director

Lisa M Rhody
Director

Project Updates





Omeka

omeka.org

Project Staff: 11

Omeka.net

Users: 132,403

Sites: 78,396

Omeka Classic

Version: 3.2

Plugins: 125

Themes: 16

Omeka S









Version: 4.2

Modules: 117

Themes: 11

2025 saw important developments across all elements of the Omeka project. Both Omeka Classic and Omeka S had core releases that offered a host of improvements. Filled with accessibility enhancements, Omeka Classic 3.2 provides a solid foundation for adding new features in design flexibility, exhibit building, and deeper geolocation engagement. The Omeka S 4.2 core release offered many workflow improvements, including item stubs which allows a user to create a new resource while editing an existing item, without needing to leave the page. Version 4.2 also incorporated what will be the first of many changes to improve the administrative views for all users.

Providing features and extensions to support sustainability and preservation has been a major project initiative for the last several years. This year, the team added Resources to the list of available data exports and debuted a Static Site Export module for Omeka S. The new add-on allows administrators to export a flattened copy of a full website, and those files can be deployed to generate a static site in Hugo. These releases opened new routes for users to produce preservation artifacts. Work also moved forward on creating connectors for popular archival description platforms, including ArchivesSpace and Archivematica.

EXPORTS		Exports		
Label	Exporter	Status		
Resources - 2025-11-25T14:34:50	    Resources	Completed		
Resources - 2025-11-21T20:40:30	    Resources	Completed		

Exports module now includes Resources for creating preservation objects.

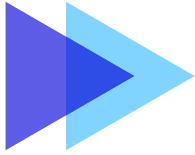
Concurrently, the Omeka team continued its efforts to integrate with systems that support fulsome and responsible work with digital collections. In June, the team released the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer Embed Plugin for Omeka Classic and Omeka.net. Additionally, Omeka became the first integration partner for Local Contexts, making its Notices and Labels available for use on all Omeka platforms, so that published collections more fully reflect ties to Indigenous communities.

The team increased direct outreach with our user communities through attending developer events, leading conference sessions, and holding the first, of what will be many, Omeka community calls. We welcome the opportunity to engage regularly with users and developers through events and the forums to improve Omeka in 2026.

All of these developments reflect our commitment and responsiveness to the needs of our users, by supporting their efforts to create digital publishing projects that provide immediate and long-term access to collections for as many visitors as possible.



*Omeka became
Local Contexts' first
integration partner.*



PressForward

pressforward.org

Project Staff: 3

Active Installs: 200+

Version: 5.9.5



Digital Humanities Now

digitalhumanitiesnow.org

Project Staff: 3

Posts: +200

Newsletter Subscribers: 532

The PressForward plugin for WordPress had one major release during 2025. That release included a number of improvements and new features. Adapting to the changing social media landscape, editors can now amplify their posts to Mastadon, Bluesky, and Threads. Given the decline of RSS feeds, the plugin now makes it possible for editors to follow profiles and topics from Google Scholar. In the coming year, the team will continue to integrate new types of content feeds for aggregation, including the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting.

To meet the needs of users who publish via a static site generator, a newsletter service, or other publishing platform, the PressForward team developed a set of requirements and specifications for a webservice, separate

*PressForward pulls
in content feeds from
across the Web.*

PressForward: Add Feeds

Subscribe to Feeds

Import OPML

OPML as Feed

Alerts

Subscribe to Feeds

Enter the URL of a feed. PressForward will watch the feed for updates, and will automatically import newly published items into the Feed Items area.

RSS Feed URLs can be often be found by looking for an orange icon with the letters "RSS", "XML", or "Atom". If you aren't sure how to find the feed URL, enter a content URL (such as an article page) and PressForward will try to identify the feed for you. [Learn more about RSS.](#)

You can also enter the URL of a Google Scholar author profile or search results page to subscribe to new publications by that author or on that topic.

Feed URL

[Check Feed](#)

from the WordPress platform. The service would allow an editorial team to aggregate and review streams of sources, curate them for publication, and produce a publication-ready document in Markdown or HTML, or push to another platform with an open API. In 2026, the PressForward team will investigate the resources necessary to produce and maintain such a service.

Digital Humanities Now (DHNow), the original flagship publication to use PressForward, returned after a multiple-year hiatus with a soft launch in May 2025. Under the capable editorial oversight of the team from Northeastern University Library's Center for Digital Scholarship, the publication returned to full strength in September. With the support of a group of volunteer Guest Editors who review and select items nominated by Editors-at-Large and members of the interested scholarly community, DHNow publishes weekly with three Editors Choice items and a range of news selections, sharing informally published digital humanities scholarship and resources from the open web with readers around the globe.

*Newly relaunched DHNow
using the PressForward
plugin.*



HOME

ABOUT ▾

RESOURCES ▾

PARTICIPATE ▾

Showcasing important digital humanities scholarship and news of interest to the DH community.

SUBSCRIBE TO DHNOW



sourcery

sourceryapp.org

Project Staff: 5

Version: 2.0 beta

Registered users: 235

Community Testing Partners: 25

Sourcerer Ambassadors: 24

Cities available: 30+

Current external funding: the Mellon Foundation, \$750,000

In 2025, the Sourcery team fully redesigned and developed a peer-to-peer document fulfillment service leading to a pilot launch in September. The peer-to-peer model enables researchers to request reference scans of archival materials that a local archive user, called a Sourcerer, can fulfill. Sourcery helps researchers collect sources from distant locations without requiring an extended network of contacts; offers Sourcerers the opportunity to use their specialized skills; and alleviates pressure on repositories that are unable to fulfill scan requests. After launching a pilot for requests in Boston and New York in September, Sourcery expanded to more than 20 US cities by December.

The redevelopment was led by Joan Fragaszy Troyano, who joined Digital Scholar in March as Sourcery's Product Manager and Service Designer.

Sourcery Request
Form, Fall 2025

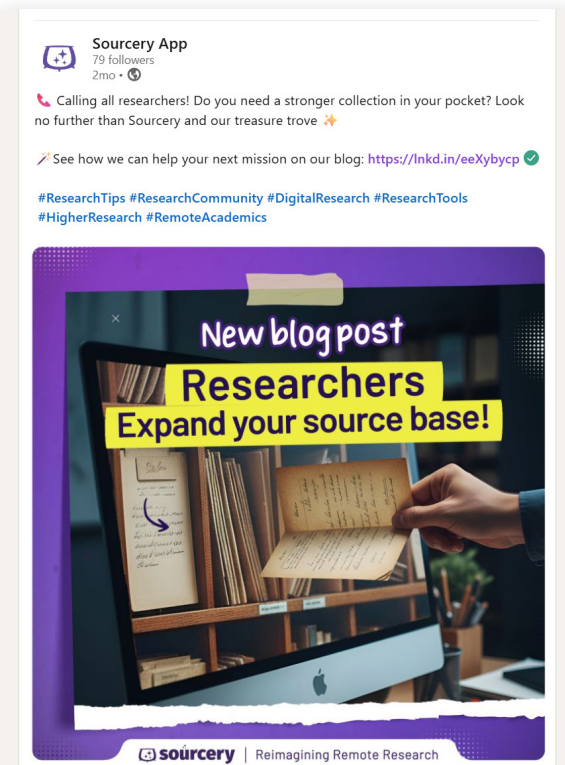
The screenshot shows the 'Make a Request' form in the Sourcery application. The header includes the Sourcery logo, navigation links for Home, Make a Request, and Account, and user status indicators for Requester Mode and Sourcerer Mode. The form is divided into three tabs: Location, Request Details (active), and Review. The 'Request Details' section contains several input fields: 'ITEM TYPE' (a dropdown menu currently showing 'Specific Item'), a note about flat archival materials, 'WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE SCANNED?' (a text input field), 'WHAT TYPE OF MATERIALS DO YOU ANTICIPATE?' (a text input field), 'GENERAL DESCRIPTION' (a larger text area), 'Location in Archive' (with a note that not all fields are required), 'LINK TO LIBRARY RECORD' (a text input field), and 'CALL NUMBER' (a text input field). On the right side, the 'Review' section displays the selected location: 'New York Public Library - Stephen A. Schwarzman Building' with its address. At the bottom right, there is a 'CHECKOUT' button and a checkbox for agreeing to the Terms and Conditions.

Designers and developers at the University of Connecticut implemented a full redesign of the Sourcery app interfaces, along with the sourceryapp.org website. At the same time, they completely overhauled the backend database architecture, location services, and payments infrastructure.

Three rounds of intensive beta testing and in-depth interviews with two dozen Researcher and Sourcerer testing partners provided insights into the current landscape and contemporary practices for requesting and receiving materials from distant archives. The majority of our Sourcerers are already working as trained library professionals, while approximately one quarter are advanced humanities students or recent graduates.

Outreach activities continued to focus on researchers and prospective Sourcerers. Extensive user support materials were developed to support the launch of the Sourcery peer-to-peer app. Robust blog posts, digital ads, and social media content, along with discounted pricing, were developed to encourage requests and support users. Additionally, the Sourcery team tabled at the American Language Association conference in January 2025 and at the Oral History Association meeting in October 2025. We will continue traveling into 2026, with 10 conferences planned over the course of the year.

In 2026, Sourcery will implement Institutional accounts that allow repositories to elect to fulfill requests themselves and receive scans made by Sourcerers, while continuing to expand its userbase.



Example of an outreach post on LinkedIn



Tropy

trophy.org

Project Staff: 4

Downloads: 311k

Version: v1.17.2

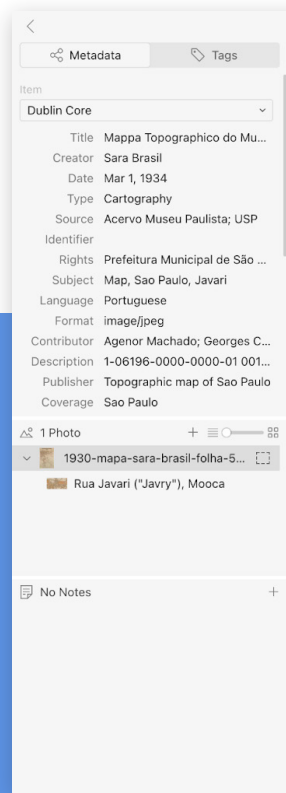
Plugins: 7

In 2025, the Tropy team focused on modernizing its research photo management software while expanding pathways for computational access to archival image collections. Across three releases, the year's work strengthened reliability and usability, introduced integrated transcription workflows, and advanced research in machine-assisted discovery in large projects.

On the development side, Tropy shipped three updates (v1.17.0, v1.17.1, and v1.17.2), upgrading to Electron 39 and React 19 to maintain security and compatibility with contemporary systems. Practical improvements included a maximizable image viewer and notepad panels that adapt to a user's workspace configuration; enhanced keyboard navigation for accessibility; and updated application icons for macOS arm64.

A major focus this year was building the foundation for integrating transcriptions across the Tropy ecosystem. Tropy now recognizes when an item

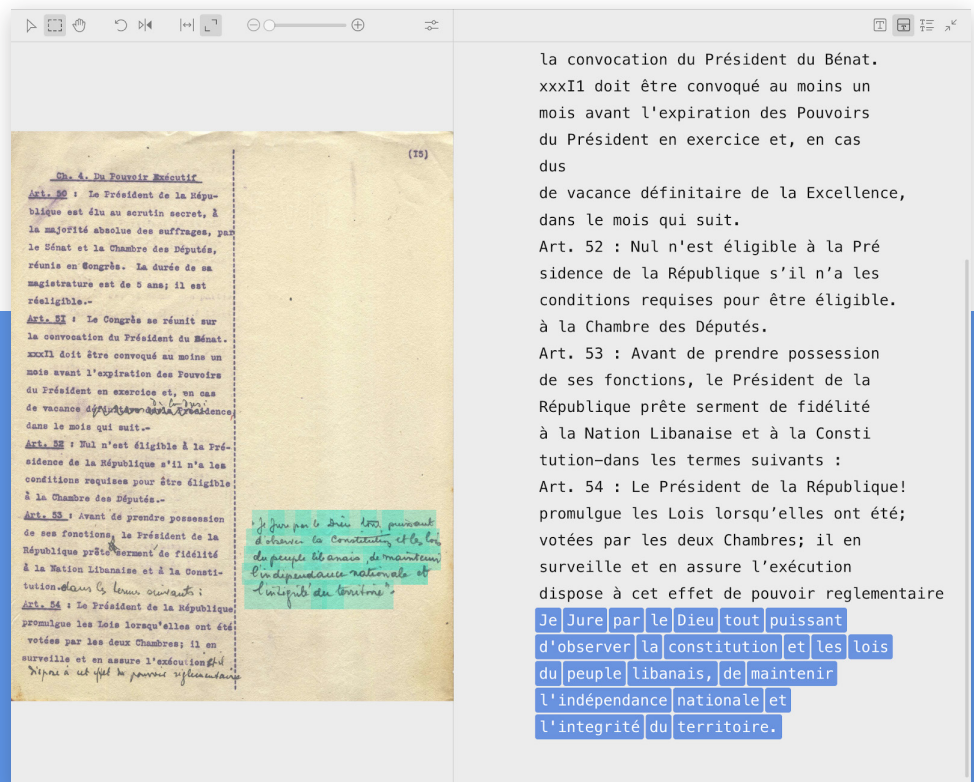
Tropy Item view featuring the maximized image viewer



has an OCR/HTR transcription attached. Additionally, the team is refining a new workflow through the Artimi 1.0.1 plugin, available in the latest beta release, testing for reliability, service delivery, and user experience. User feedback informs the next steps of integrating transcription into Tropy's core software, soon to be available for all users.

In direct outreach, we engaged over 900 participants through 7 in-person, 6 remote, and 3 hybrid events. Activities ranged from workshops tailored for specific researchers' needs to presentations at professional associations and academic departments. A highlight was presenting at the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations Digital Humanities Conference 2025 in Lisbon where the team demonstrated how scholars can connect Tropy items to large language models, exploring how text extraction with semantic analysis can improve discoverability through machine-generated metadata. Participant enthusiasm for these experimental features offered the team encouragement for possible future development.

As Tropy looks to 2026, the team will prioritize functionality requested by many users: cloud-based collaboration. Offering remote project access requires the implementation of user accounts, first. We will continue experimenting with language models and machine learning that respects researcher control and archival stewardship.



Tropy will soon roll out a new transcription feature.



zotero

zotero.org

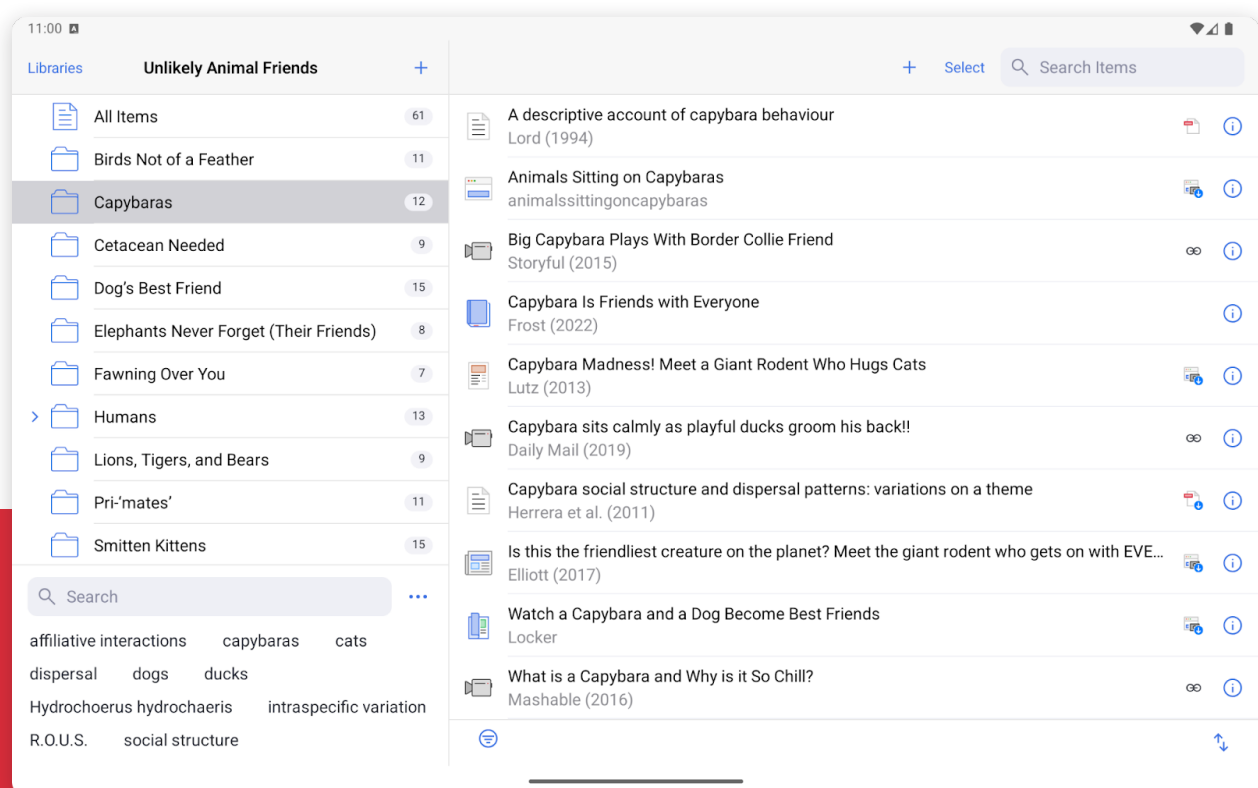
Project Staff: 13

Users: 17.3 million

Version: 7.0.30

In 2025, Zotero marked significant advances in its mobile client offerings. In June, we released our first Android client after beta testing for more than a year. This new client brought core Zotero functionality to Android users: adding and editing items; reading and annotating PDFs; and notetaking and synchronizing across Zotero's device and web platforms. By the end of 2025, Zotero's Android client was installed on 212,000 devices worldwide.

We also significantly improved Zotero's iOS apps in November, allowing users to annotate EPUBs and webpage snapshots, in addition to PDFs which had long been supported. Zotero's iOS users may also retrieve metadata for PDFs already added to their Zotero libraries, ensuring that researchers have access to their trustworthy sources and metadata. Over the course of the year, iOS users downloaded Zotero 935,000 times.

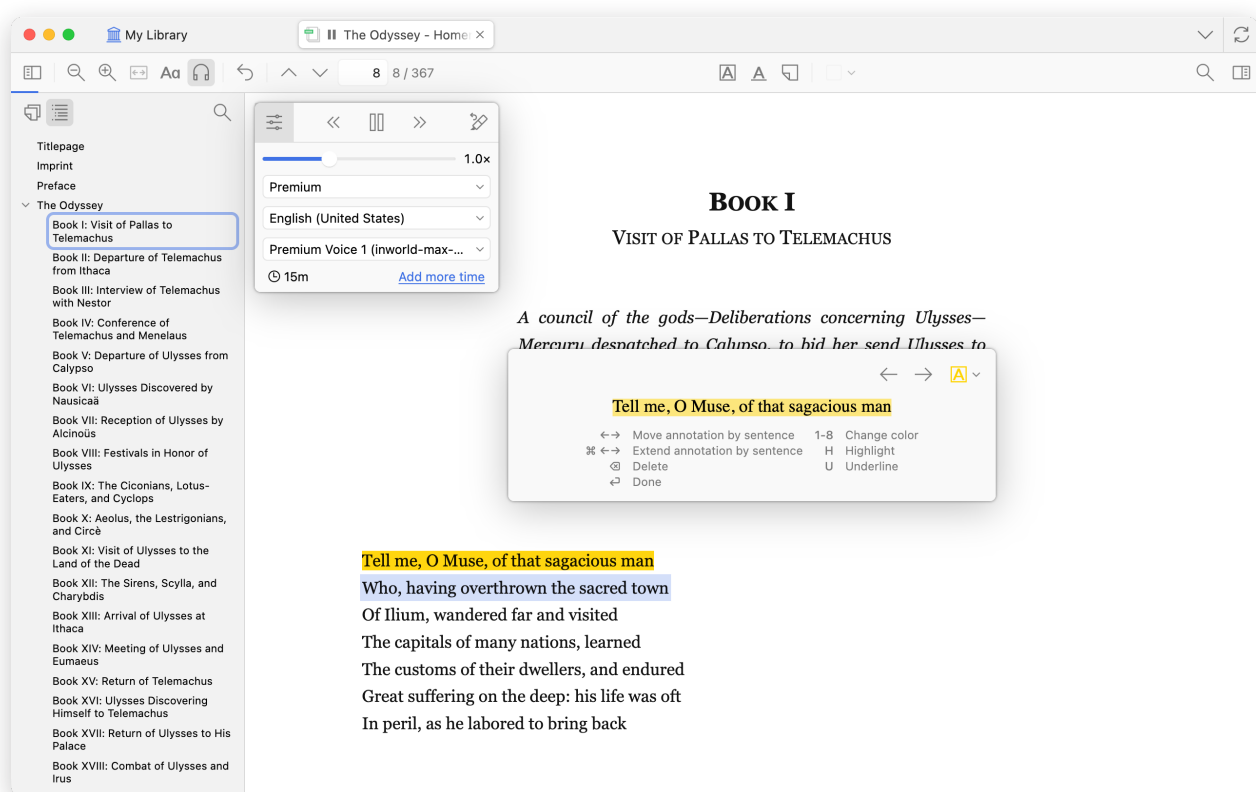


Interface for the newly-launched Zotero for Android app

In 2025 Zotero's overall user base grew to 17.3 million (a 20% increase over 2024), who has collectively uploaded 3.1 billion items (26% increase), and is currently collaborating in over 5 million groups (9% increase).

User and developer support remains a hallmark of Zotero, as our project team responded to more than 7660 posts on the forums. We also relied on our international base of users who helped identify bugs and tested beta versions of the software, running on different platforms.

The Zotero team also worked intensely designing and testing new features and accessibility improvements, including a text-to-speech functionality to be incorporated into a major release in 2026.



Zotero's upcoming Read Aloud feature with AI voice options and quick annotation



contact@digitalscholar.org

Digital Scholar
7245 Arlington Blvd., STE 300
Falls Church, VA 22042 USA