Open Culture Platform 2024 Year in Review

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In 2024, the Open Culture Platform made great strides in advancing open access to cultural heritage. Under the umbrella vision of "25 for 2025" (aiming to encourage platform members to move 25 institutions to open over two years), we conducted several activities to strengthen the foundation for global open heritage. Here's a snapshot of what we as a community realized together.

We collaborated with **Dr. Andrea Wallace** and **Doug McCarthy** to connect our vision with the OpenGLAM survey. In June, we published a blog post to promote the survey and create synergies with the platform's activities. Contributors to the OpenGLAM Survey can now indicate support from the OC Platform, allowing us to better monitor and celebrate collective progress.

We developed resources within three working groups:

» The Risk Assessment Working Group, led by **Revekka Kefalea** and **Ilkay Holt**, developed comprehensive guidance to help institutions assess and manage risks associated with opening up collections. Read their article Navigating Risks in Open Access: Insights and Strategies for Cultural Heritage Institutions.

» The Policy Template Working Group, under the leadership of **Lucy Moore** and **Connor Benedict**, developed an Open Access Policy Template designed for cultural heritage organizations, available in eight languages. Read their article A Ready-to-Use Policy Template for Launching Open Access — Co-producing an open policy template for Creative Commons' Open Culture Platform.

» The Community Outreach Working Group, led by **Medhavi Gandhi** and **Bukola James**, organized a series of webinars during Open Access Week and International World Culture Week to spotlight the platform's activities and foster community engagement, underscoring the collective benefits of an open culture movement. You can watch the webinars and read more in their Medium article: [Empowering Global Communities Through Open Culture: Highlights from the 2024 Outreach Working Group](#).

Four Activity Fund projects promoted digitization and open access in:

» Ghana: **Mohammed Awal Alhassan** collaborated with community members to explore ways of preserving and providing open access to private collections of cultural heritage. See the project's [meta page](#) and a [dedicated upload page](#) on Wikimedia Commons.
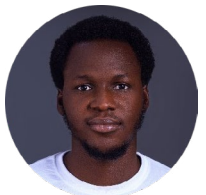

» Rwanda: **Clementine Nyirahabihirwe**, with Creative Commons Rwanda, digitized resources and advocated for open access in national libraries. See the project's meta page: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Open_Access_to_Cultural_Heritage/GLAM_Rwanda and an article in the newspaper The New Times: [How Creative Commons licenses can transform Rwandan storytelling](#).

» Brazil: **Sandra Soster** and **João Alexandre Peschanski** created content and developed indexes of public parks for Wikimedia Commons and the Reflora project. Visit [Category:Amazonian Knowledge on Wiki - Wikimedia Commons](#)

» Nigeria: **Àlàáfíàbámí Ọládipúpọ̀** worked with national library branches in and around Abuja to digitize public domain materials, increasing their accessibility across the country. Read a [blog post about the event](#), the [PD- Nigeria Newspapers](#) on Wikimedia Commons and a [video highlight about the event](#).

We're looking forward to 2025 with more great projects to collaborate on. If you're interested in open access to cultural heritage and would like to know more, [join the Open Culture Platform](#) now!