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The American Council of Learned Societies (“ACLS”) is pleased to announce that the management and administration of the Humanities eBook (HEB) Project has been transferred to the University of Michigan effective as of the end of 2019.

After almost two decades of managing the project’s operations within the offices of ACLS in New York City, the transfer of the governance of the project from ACLS to Michigan Publishing was meant to enable HEB to continue its growth and development, and also to allow ACLS to focus its efforts and resources as the largest provider of fellowships in the humanities and in supporting the work of the 75 academic societies that make up the “Council” in “The American Council of Learned Societies.” “We are very enthusiastic about this plan; we see scholars who support wide access to their work as essential partners both in the project and in all that we do on behalf of scholarship in the humanities and social science”, says James Shulman, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ACLS.

The Humanities eBook project began in 2002 as an effort to understand what the digital turn would mean for longform publishing in the humanities. It was started with a Mellon grant used to explore the demand for digital resources which has turned into a successful platform for access and distribution in the social sciences and humanities. Consequently, it has evolved into a service in which curation of scholarly publications in collaboration with ACLS societies has led to a 5,000+ eBook collection, with a revenue-sharing relationship with the rights holders (based on the usage of the contributed works). Since 2005, HEB been distributing the collection via Michigan Publishing; over the past year, the collection has been migrated to Fulcrum, a Mellon supported open source publishing platform created by Michigan.

Michigan Publishing’s goals for the project are exceedingly well aligned with ACLS’s this is veiled a a logical next step in the evolution of HEB. The project will continue to serve the broad community of scholarly communications in the humanities by making available a meaningfully curated collection of electronic books.

“This is an exciting time for HEB, the University of Michigan and the Fulcrum platform. The confidence expressed by ACLS in the team here at the University of Michigan and our plans to continue to invest in the collection reflects the need for top quality scholarly books and monographs that meet librarian budgetary and academic needs”, says Charles Watkinson, Director, University of Michigan Press and Associate University Librarian.

## About ACLS

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), founded in 1919, is a private, nonprofit federation of 75 scholarly organizations in the humanities and related social sciences.<sup>[1]</sup> It is best known for its fellowship competitions which provide a range of opportunities for scholars in the humanities and related social sciences at all career stages, from graduate students to distinguished professors to independent scholars, working with a number of disciplines and methodologies in the U.S. and abroad.