The Ludwig Wittgenstein Project: Philosophy Goes Open

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As publications became increasingly digital, the online community's relationship with copyright has also evolved, creating opportunities for scholarly work and collaboration (Gaillet & Guglielmo, 2014, p. 116). Undoubtedly, such opportunities have been made possible the public domain, which has a crucial role in the common cultural heritage as the hub of traditional knowledge – ideas, facts, style, methods, intrigue, and concepts (Dusollier, 2009, p. 14). The availability of public domain works has, in turn, been increased by the rise of open licences, thanks to which it becomes possible to distribute derivative works based upon public domain sources (for example translations) that are truly free, and not merely *gratis*.

It was this context that the Ludwig Wittgenstein Project (LWP) leveraged to launch. However, the LWP aspired to take digital publishing one step further, not only releasing digital editions of Wittgenstein's already published works but also producing high-quality translations in languages these works were not previously available for the first time. Wittgenstein's works entered the public domain in countries with a copyright term of 70 years PMA in January 2022; since that very date, the LWP is a repository of Wittgenstein's published works in the original language and translation available to all free of charge and with a free licence. The project's ultimate goal is to remove the paywall that stands between the prospective reader and the texts, and to make the texts available to anyone who cannot access a library. At the same time, the project team is working to collect and translate material, as well as create synergies with academics and scholars studying Wittgenstein's work. Since the beginning of the year, the LWP has been awarded funds by Wikimedia Italia and the University of Milan, thanks to which two new Italian translations have been published: The Blue Book and Notes Dictated to G. E. Moore in Norway. The project team is currently organizing the 7th conference of the International Ludwig Wittgenstein Society in partnership with the Internationale Ludwig Wittgenstein Gesellschaft at the University of Milan in October 2022.

The LWP shares the Wikimedia movement's vision and mission, and follows its core project values and guidelines, as described in Dulong De Rosnay & Langlais (2017, p. 10): it is 1) community-run and 2) transnational. We believe this model is worth understanding and possibly replicating. Our hope is to be able to participate in the discussions and efforts of increasing discoverability and visibility, as well as public awareness, engagement, and participation in digital cultural heritage, in addition to serving as a useful resource in particular for those who focus on making high-level educational resources freely available online.

[Word Count: 434]

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