

Open-Access Anime: The Magnificent Continuation of *JAMS*'

Magical Girl Transformation

Billy Tringali

The goal of the first volume of the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies* was, through intense work and collaboration, to plant a seed that would grow into the first sprouts of this highly interdisciplinary, academic endeavor. The goal of our second volume was to anchor our roots, demonstrating to all that the effort of our first publication was valuable and that our work would continue. Now, in the third volume of the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies*, I am so proud to present not just a thriving academic publication, but also the magnificent work it is able to publish this year.

This volume of *JAMS* has nine papers that take approaches ranging from queer studies to science fiction studies and to military studies, alongside a conference report and two book reviews. With this publication, the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies* will now have published 27 articles, book reviews, and conference reports by scholars at 25 different universities, for a combined 734 pages of anime scholarship -- all available completely for free, to any scholar anywhere in the world.

In the following introduction to this volume, I'd love to share with you more about *JAMS*' growth, both as a journal and with some of our most-read articles, before closing with some warm words regarding the heart of this journal.

Open-Access Anime

When we first began publishing in 2020, JAMS only received 322 file views; this changed in 2021, when we more than doubled this number with 774 file views (Figure 1).

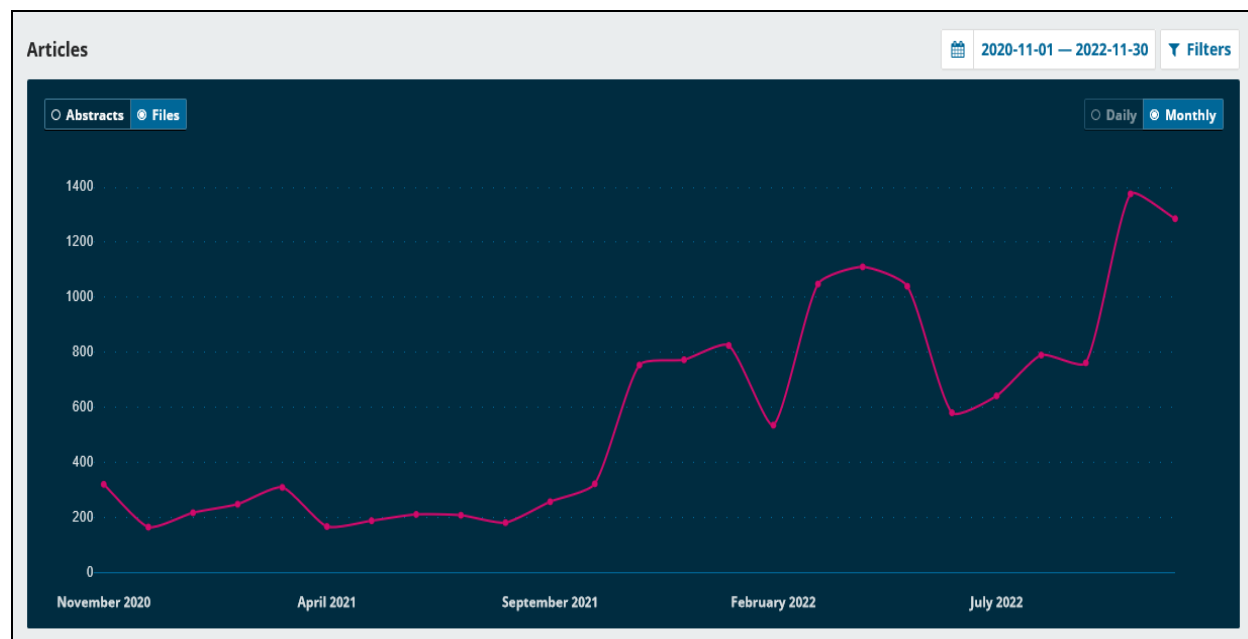


Figure 1 – Article File Views for the Journal of Anime and Manga Studies, 11/2020-11/2022

After a brief dip in February of 2022, our average views skyrocketed, going from an average of 537 file views per month to an entire 1049 in March of 2022 (Figure 1).

Here's another way to look at the same numbers: in November of 2020, JAMS got 322 file views. In November of 2021, this increased to 775 files views. And in November of 2022, this increased again to 1286 file views.

In my mind, this is due to the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies*' acceptance into the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) this year (Figure 2). *JAMS* was added into the DOAJ on February 28th, 2022,¹ and it is my opinion that this achievement, itself the result of much hard work, lent an extreme amount of credibility

and visibility to a still somewhat small, niche journal. Likewise, this visibility was undoubtedly boosted by a news brief from the *Anime News Network*, who featured a blurb about *JAMS'* acceptance into DOAJ on their site.²

Since *JAMS'* acceptance into DOAJ, our combined monthly file views have always remained above 580 combined views per month, and our abstract views have remained above 860. From March through November of 2022, *JAMS* had an average of over 960 file views per month. I hope that, with the publication of this third volume, *JAMS'* readership will only continue to grow, and *JAMS'* will continue to serve the growing field of anime and manga studies in kind.

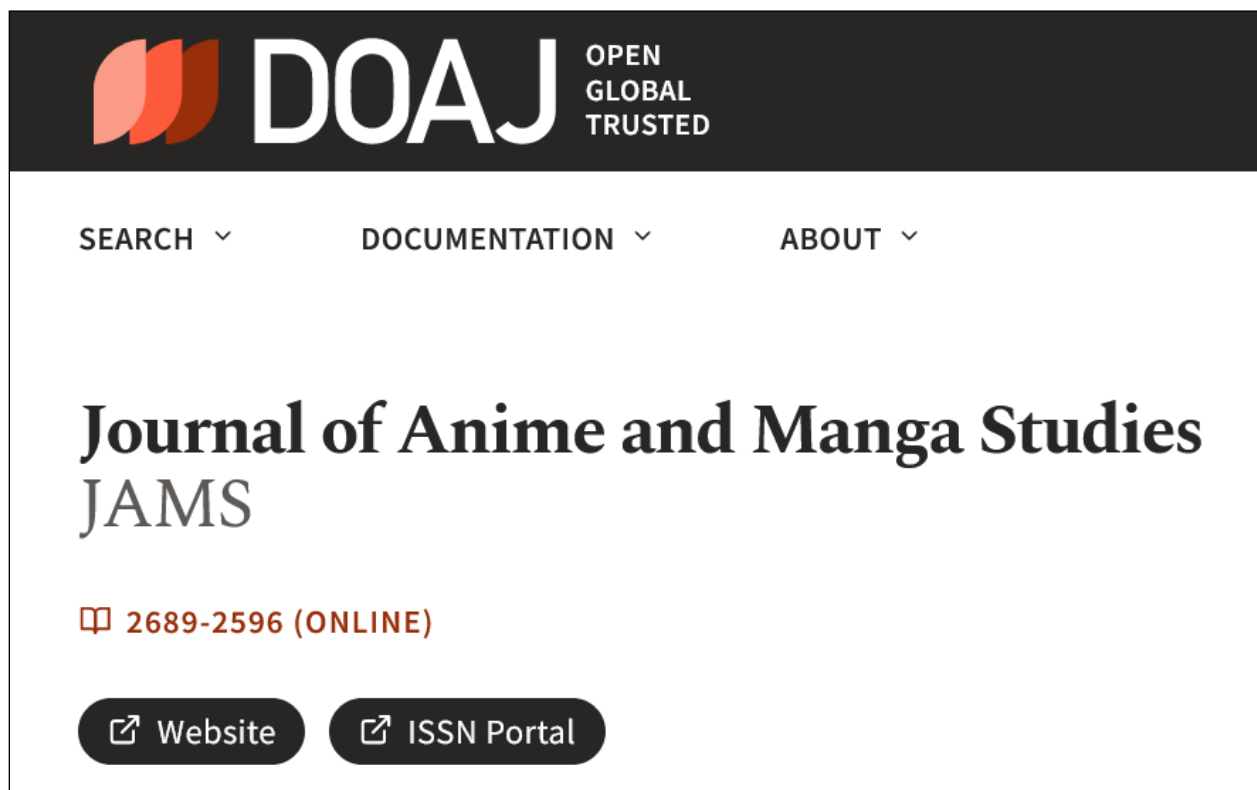


Figure 2 – DOAJ Page for the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies*

Since our initial launch, several of our papers have racked up thousands of views from interested readers. As these numbers show, this is such an exciting time for anime and manga studies, and I am very excited that *JAMS* has been able to offer so much already!

Our most read articles include:

- *Embedded Niche Overlap: A Media Industry History of Yaoi Anime's American Distribution from 1996 to 2009* by Finley Freibert with combined abstract and file views of 5242 as of November 30th, 2022
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v1.234>
- *A Survey of the Story Elements of Isekai Manga* by Paul Price with combined abstract and file views of 4483 as of November 30th, 2022
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.808>
- *The Spectacular Mundane in the Films of Studio Ghibli* by Zoe Crombie with combined abstract and file views of 3476 as of November 30th, 2022
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.507>
- *Boy with Machine: A Deleuzoguattarian Critique of Neon Genesis Evangelion* by Betty Stojnic with combined abstract and file views of 2278 as of November 30th, 2022
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.822>
- *Haunted Psychologies: The Specter of Postmodern Trauma in Bakemonogatari* by Barbara Greene with combined abstract and file views of 2013 as of November 30th, 2022
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.869>

I hope linking these popular (and unpopular) works will spark your interest in reviewing past volumes of *JAMS*, and demonstrate again just how highly read so many of these works are.

The Heart of *JAMS*

Having just hit publish on this third volume, I can so vividly remember where it all began - sitting at the hotel bar of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. I was coming hot off a host of listening to incredible panels on anime studies and frantically handing out *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies* business cards to anyone who would take them. Earlier that day, I'd been fortunate enough to meet Frenchy Lunning, the Founder of *Mechademia*, who told me:

“*JAMS* is a heart. You will need a left and a right ventricle – two people who will ensure the heart’s survival.”

I did not realize it then, but I would be fortunate enough to find these people from our very first publication. I would like to dedicate the third volume of the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies* to *JAMS*’ own left and right ventricle:

Jessica Parent and *Maria Alberto*

Beyond their incredible work as *JAMS*’ copyeditors, Jessica and Maria have evolved into my most trusted and dedicated collaborators as this volume of the journal came into fruition. Thank you both, from the bottom of my heart, for being such brilliant colleagues, confident advisors, and most importantly, dear friends. This volume would not exist without you.

Closing

JAMS has been, and continues to be, a labor of love by myself as the Founder and Editor, alongside *JAMS*' countless peer reviewers, authors, board members, and copy editors. We are all people who love anime and are happy to give our time and expertise to see this art form, this connection builder, this fandom space, this industry, and every possible other thing this umbrella of 'anime' represents to millions of people around the world – all examined with a critical eye, and then shared with you.

It is with much sincerity and gratitude that I thank you for reading the third volume of the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies*. I hope you find much to learn and enjoy here.

With warmth,

Billy Tringali

Editor-in-Chief

¹ DOAJ, "Journal of Anime and Manga Studies"

² Hazra, "Journal of Anime and Manga Studies Joins Directory of Open Access Journals"

Bibliography

DOAJ. "Journal of Anime and Manga Studies." DOAJ.org. December 13th, 2022. <https://doaj.org/toc/2689-2596>.

Hazra, Adriana. "Journal of Anime and Manga Studies Joins Directory of Open Access Journals." *Anime News Network*. March 12th, 2022. <http://4NN.cx/.183360>.

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