

Introduction to Volume 12, Issue 1

As we write this, the summer break is winding down far too quickly here in the US. Isn't that the case every year? We have so many goals, plans, and projects for too short of a time. Hopefully you achieved many of yours. Perhaps you embarked on a writing project, and if so, we encourage you to consider submitting it to *Practical Academic Librarianship* if it fits within our [scope](#). Our "sister" publication, *Education Libraries*, is a long-standing, well-respected peer reviewed journal within the SLA Academic and Education Community, and you may wish to look at their [scope](#) to consider submitting your work there.

We are just catching up from the SLA Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC. The Annual Conference remains a great opportunity for information professionals as well as academic librarians to get involved in learning and networking. In particular, it can be a space for new professionals to help find their professional place. Our new *Practical Academic Librarianship* logo, visible on each of our journal articles, was created by one of these new professionals. We enlisted the help of recent graduate and now librarian, Carly Jessup, to create the logo for us. We thank Carly for her work on this, and we hope you consider ways to involve more graduate students and new librarians in our profession, especially as we approach the fall semester.

A new semester offers new opportunities, and we are interested in some new content for *Practical Academic Librarianship*. In our 10+ years of publishing, we have not published book reviews, though we are open to your ideas. This is a fairly low-commitment opportunity for involvement that might interest one of the newer members we mentioned above. In addition to book reviews, we are considering expanding our publication of "think pieces." We have published a few in the past. We consider these timely, thoughtful essays that are often short in length and do not necessarily require more substantial research for publication that the articles in our peer reviewed section require.

Speaking of our peer reviewed articles, we hope you will find this issue's articles practical and relevant to your work. "Which Libraries Are Open?: How to Quickly Map Library Reopening Statuses and Service Updates Using CARTO" offers an excellent example of how this easy-to-use online mapping platform facilitated an efficient library response in a crisis situation such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding and respecting others' complex identities and unique experiences in the context of LIS is explored in "Others-Oriented Reference: Employing Cultural Humility in the Reference Interview." Outreach to international students is the theme of "The English Conversation Group: A Library-led Virtual Program for International Students," a description of how librarians at the University of Windsor's Leddy Library quickly pivoted to an online modality for a popular English conversation discussion group in the face of COVID. "The Research

Support Needs of Emerging Researchers Employed at the Education Faculty of a University of Technology” shares the results of a mixed methods study to determine where researchers need library support in each stage of the research life cycle.

Although there are far too many people to thank for this issue, we would particularly like to recognize Abby Thorne (copy editor), Beth Kraemer (layout editor), all the authors and reviewers who have contributed, the PAL Editorial Board, and our colleagues at the Texas Digital Library, without whom the journal could not be published. We owe a debt of gratitude to the vision and hard work of Leslie J. Reynolds, Founding Editor, who continues to remain on the Editorial Board.

And of course, we continue to thank you as our readers who support us in so many ways. We always welcome feedback and hope you enjoy the issue!

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