

Introduction to Volume 13, Issue 2

In drafting the introduction to each issue, we, the co-editors of Practical Academic Librarianship, have the opportunity to reflect on and share what is currently on our minds. This year marks a special one for us as we are four years into our co-editorship of the journal, and also it is the first time since 2018 we have published two issues in a calendar year. As we reflected together for this issue's introduction, we kept coming back to the theme of reinvigoration.

With reinvigoration, we are thinking about not only taking on the journal after its brief hiatus or about SLA, our parent organization, and its changes in management, but also the reinvigoration of one's own career. While this process can occur at any point, regardless of how long you've been in the profession, many of us who have been working in LIS for several years are taking a step back to reflect on what motivates us, what we still need to learn, and how we can pivot to take advantage of new opportunities. Just a few questions worth considering:

- What does it mean to be mid-career?
- What happens when you move from administration back to librarianship?
- What can you continue to do that is professionally satisfying for the remainder of your career?

We feel that it is important to continue to be professionally involved, to continue to participate in professional organizations, and to continue to mentor no matter where we may be in our daily work life. For those of you who may relate to the idea of reinvigorating your career, we would especially like to hear from you. We are considering a future special issue on this topic. While our focus is on research related to practical issues within academic libraries, we can't think of anything more practical than planning the remainder of your career. If you are interested in working with us on a special issue related to mid- to late-career reinvigoration, please reach out to us. We are envisioning a special issue that includes think pieces and practical advice, not necessarily research articles that we typically publish.

This journal has been a significant part of a career reinvigoration for both of us since we took on co-editorship in January 2020, and we are excited to share the following articles with you in this issue. In "Apologia pro Bibliotheca: More than Information," James M. Donovan offers a thought-provoking essay on the nature of

information and how it can be misrepresented in the fundamental mission of libraries and librarians. Mary Elizabeth Turner examines the growing literature on library services for LGBTQ+ patrons and their impact on evidence-based best practices in “Best Practices for Serving LGBTQ+ Library Users in the 21st Century: A Systematic Literature Review.” Libraries’ frequently asked questions are under analysis in Sarah K. Mazur’s article, “Searching for Answers: A Case Study in Pursuit of Best Practices for Library FAQs.” Finally, Grace Therrell presents a useful information literacy approach in *Balancing, Prioritizing, and Reimagining: Comprehensively Updating Asynchronous Library Instruction.*”

With each issue, we have many volunteers to thank. The authors, reviewers, our Advisory Board, and you the readers—we are certainly grateful to all of you for supporting PAL. We also want to thank those behind the scenes that work so hard to make each issue a reality.

Dr. Stacey Greenwell and Ms. Jennifer Bartlett
Co-Editors, Practical Academic Librarianship