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Collaborative Librarianship: Five Years and Counting

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Collaborative Librarianship: Five Years and Counting

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Co-General Editor, *Collaborative Librarianship*

This issue completes five full years of publishing *Collaborative Librarianship*. Not only does the journal publish articles on collaboration, it also represents in practical terms some of the best practices in library collaboration. The tireless work of an impressive team from the United States and around the world has brought this journal to reality and this team has sustained it over these years. The journal also champions the highest values in scholarly communication that include free and open access to knowledge and scholarship. Its mission is to share and develop ideas regarding library resources and services, to mentor new librarians and budding scholars, and to explore the ways together we do better and accomplish more than we do individually. A deeply felt “thanks” goes out to our editorial and management team and to our esteemed Advisory Board.

Speaking of the Advisory Board, the Journal welcomes its newest member, Ms Rona Wade. Based in Sydney, Australia, Ms Wade expands the international character of the Board and brings considerable experience as CEO of UNILINC, a robust consortium serving 22 libraries of several types across Australia. Primary functions of UNILINC are cataloging services, electronic content loading and presentation, interlibrary loan and document delivery, training and shared online catalogs. Its most recent initiatives center on next generation integrated library systems. We look forward to Ms Wade’s contributions to *Collaborative Librarianship*. For more information about UNILINC, see: <http://www.unilinc.edu.au/>.

In completing Volume 5, we offer three scholarly articles dealing with joint-use public/academic libraries, creating a learning commons in academic libraries, and library-faculty collaboration on information literacy programs. One article in “From the Field” provides insight on how librarians and teaching faculty can better work together on designing research assignments, and

another article offers a profile of library publications registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals. Again in our “Viewpoints” section, our columnist, Lori Ayre, gives perspectives on libraries and technology. This time Lori writes about supply chain technologies and what libraries can be learn from other industries. Another “Viewpoints” article comes from students in the LIS program at San Jose State University dealing with study collaboration and library publications. Finishing the issue, three reviews cover research practices of chemists, library-archives-museum collaborations, and information literacy.

In exploring the San Jose State University LIS wiki mentioned in the “Viewpoints” article, I discovered a very useful survey of publications dealing with librarianship. The survey information and analysis cover a range of topics--including circulation and subscription data. Knowing how the “views” have added up over the years for *Collaborative Librarianship*, I was curious how these numbers might compare with other library publications. The wiki presented an opportunity to find out a little in this regard. Here are a few statistics you might find interesting. But please remember the old adage, however, “There are lies, damn lies and statistics.” These raw data probably raise more questions than provide answers. How do subscription numbers relate to “views” counts or can they be related in some way? In what way can paid subscriptions be compared with open access? What variance factors pertaining to readership should be considered in paper versus electronic? How dated are the statistics? I am sure other questions come to mind as well. Also, many publications listed on the wiki unfortunately do not report circulation or views data and are not included in this list. At any rate, here is a selection of some of the journal data:



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| American Libraries | 65,000 per issue, to ALA members |
| Collaborative Librarianship | 300,000+ total views (currently 20,000+/issue) |
| College & Research Libraries | 13,000 circulation |
| College & Research Libraries News | 13,429 circulation |
| Collection Management | 652 circulation |
| Cataloging and Classification Quarterly | 590 subscriptions |
| Feliciter (CDN) | 3,900 subscriptions |
| First Monday | 314,559 per month (a journal about the Internet) |
| IFLA Journal | 1,700 to IFLA members |
| Library Hi Tech | 100,000 downloads per year |
| Library Journal | 19,500 paid subscriptions, est. 100,000 readers |
| Library Quarterly | 1,300 circulation |

While conclusions drawn from these data must be very considered and limited, nevertheless some of the statistics seem to indicate that *Collaborative Librarianship* may be doing quite well in terms of readership.

Librarians, library workers, library educators and persons in fields supporting library and library-related professions are encouraged to submit articles for consideration by Collaborative Librarianship. Please see the appropriate sections of this website for further details and submission guidelines, or contact section editors listed. Now it is onward to the next five years!

