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Expanding our Impact through Collaborative Practice: Models of Engagement for Librarians

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Expanding Our Impact through Collaborative Practice: Models of Engagement for Librarians

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Welcome (five months into the year!) to the first issue of 2018. We've fallen a bit behind in publication, but this issue should be worth the wait. Across all of the articles in this issue we see ways in which members of the information chain are enhancing standard library and information practices through various collaborative efforts. These efforts improve current practices and grow the communities engaged with this work.

Our guest columnist, Erin Gallagher, speaks honestly about the collaborative work between librarians and vendors -- relationships that are fraught with assumptions by both librarians and information providers. Erin helps to outline ways in which we all can work better together, and describes best practices to make these relationships less contentious and help us develop more of a teamwork approach to resource provision. Lori Bowen Ayre's column investigates ways in which we can learn from other successful collaborative efforts in the information field. Her article on Wikipedia shows how this initiative has growth and continues to be successful fifteen years after its inception. It's a model of collaboration that librarians can learn from and participate in. Librarians should join the work undertaken by Wikipedia to strengthen this tool. It's a perfect example of how our expertise can extend beyond the traditional library setting to help provide a valuable and open resource for all.

Lorraine Estelle, Director of Project COUNTER, provides a From the Field Report on how feedback from the COUNTER community led to the development of "friendly guides" to the COUNTER code of practices and how that community was able to support the development of these guides in multiple languages. These guides are quite successful among COUNTER users and providers, and we can anticipate development of additional guides on an annual basis to further everyone's understanding of codes of practice regarding electronic resource usage data within libraries. This, too, is a model of collaboration that extends beyond the library walls and serves a broad community of users.

Our other From the Field report, by Katelyn Angell, surveys academic librarian positions dedicated to serving first-year college students - positions that tend to work closely with student services positions across campus. To be successful, these first-year experience positions must be collaborative. In addition to engaging deeply with students through information literacy instruction, these positions serve intercampus partnerships that lead to ongoing student retention and engagement. This level of campus participation increases the reach of libraries and demonstrates how librarians can make a difference in student success.

The scholarly articles in this issue provide three examples of partnerships beyond traditional academic librarian practices. While all of the authors work in academic libraries, their work is now expanding beyond the confines of standard



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librarian roles. Karen Bordonaro explores how librarians can work with English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors to develop information assessment tools. This article not only gives a great example of the tools that can be created but also provides a framework for engagement that librarians can use to partner successfully with these instructors in academic settings.

Sierra Laddusaw and Jennifer Wilhelm present a study on the development of a partnership between a large academic research library and the local public library through event programming. Their goal was to offer and increase the community's engagement with public library programs and broaden the reach and visibility of the local academic collections. The work undertaken describes these events and shows how they benefited both the academic institution and the community at large. These are inspiring examples that other academic librarians can use to partner with public libraries to impact their local community beyond the campus.

Katie Richardson, Alexis Adkins, and Elizabeth Gomez have increased student engagement with university archives through the development of collaborative partnerships to document student life at Cal Poly Pomona. Working in cooperation with other offices on campus and the leaders of student organizations, their library created an internship program for students to acquire and process archival material related to student life. By appealing directly to student groups as well as the offices on campus that oversee those groups, these archivists were able to expand their collections to cover topics and groups not traditionally well-covered. As with the examples above, they used a creative and collaborative approach to expand the reach of the library.

Through collaborative engagement, library and information science practices flourish. The growth of the communities served by librarians and information professionals results in a

greater impact of our services and collections. By increasing our partnerships, we expand our relevance within the world, making a bigger difference for the communities we serve.

