Endings and Beginnings: Announcement of Editorial Change at Collaborative Librarianship

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Endings and Beginnings: Announcement of Editorial Change at Collaborative Librarianship

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The past twelve months of pandemic and social unrest in the United States have led many of us to reflect on our current situations and consider our priorities for the post-current pandemic future. As we reflect on our time as editors of Collaborative Librarianship, we recognize that it is time for us to step aside to make way for new leadership to contribute their own editorial direction. We’ve spent the past five years developing and expanding the reach of Collaborative Librarianship and are very confident that the editors stepping up to manage the journal will be able to enrich and broaden the journal further. We’re thrilled to announce that the two new co-editors of Collaborative Librarianship starting with Volume 13 are Chris Robinson-Nkongola (Bowling Green University Libraries) and Carrie Forbes (University of Denver Libraries).

As a journal focused on the collaborative nature of the work we’re engaged in, Collaborative Librarianship values and thrives on collaboration. We’d be remiss if we didn’t acknowledge the editorial board that helped us review the majority of the research articles published and some of the from the field publications as well. The board also provided invaluable advice about topics and authors of potential articles. We couldn’t publish a single issue of the journal without the dedicated help of Anne Abate, Janet Lee, Alyssa Loera, and Chris Robinson-Nkongola who all served as copy editors during our tenure as editors. Laureen Cantwell has served diligently as the layout editor of the journal and catches a number of formatting issues we may otherwise miss. She makes all of the disparate Word documents and Excel tables come together as a unified whole. Jonathan Cain co-presented with us at the Charleston Conference in 2017 on our publication practice as an OA journal. Finally, we’d like to thank Lori Bowen Ayre, who regularly writes a column from a public library perspective and guest edited an issue focused specifically on disaster response in public libraries that has resulted in a number of highly downloaded articles.

We want to highlight some of the successes that have occurred during our tenure as editors. Specifically, since moving to bepress, we’ve had 92,670 downloads from 399 works with eleven articles with over 1,000 reads (most but not all from our time period as editors). One of our top downloaded articles is a piece from Maureen Richardson entitled “Stronger Together: Increased Collaborations between Academic and Public Libraries” Our other successful articles cover topics as broad as collaborative efforts regarding technical services work and student engagement. Lastly, we are extremely proud to have instituted the “What Collaboration Means
to Me” column, which has allowed the journal to highlight collaborative efforts from all areas of our profession, including the perspectives of seasoned professionals, newer librarians, and even a student.

We’ve always felt part of the collaborative engagement as editors meant giving authors feedback and opportunities they may not find from other publications in our profession. We took the collaborative nature of the journal to heart as co-editors and worked diligently with authors to bring the best versions of their articles to publication. Sometimes these efforts were minimal and sometimes extensive. Our reward for this work always meant a wider acknowledgement of projects and efforts that otherwise would have not been published.

Another part of our editorial oversight that we’re proud of is the addition of DOIs to all articles. Through the hard work of Jenelys Cox at the University of Denver and Laureen Cantwell at Colorado Mesa University, we have completed a retrospective assignment of DOIs through volume 4 of the journal. We hope that the completion of this work can be fast tracked in the near future to ensure that all articles are readily discoverable through DOIs.

We will remain on the editorial board and continue to help with the review of articles for publication but are ready to take this step back from day-to-day oversight of the journal. As we look towards volume 13, we’re extremely excited to see what Chris and Carrie develop together as co-editors. They’ve already begun work on what is sure to be an extremely impactful inaugural double issue focused on collaborative efforts in our profession around equity, diversity, and inclusion. We’re sharing the call for proposals here: http://bit.ly/CFPCollaborativeLibrarianship.