Library Innovation and Collaborative Librarianship

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As Collaborative Librarianship (CL) plans for the future, the website has undergone a little updating and editing. In the process, I reviewed some of our links located on the right-hand sidebar of CL’s home page, and again the link to the Journal of Library Innovation (JLI) caught my eye. For those having overlooked this publication, perhaps a little overview may pique your interest.

First, a point of clarification: while the CL and JLI share some similarities where they intersect on topics related to collaboration, they really are complementary and not competitive publications. Librarians who wish to keep current on new, interesting, collaborative and helpful advances in the librarianship would do well to have both publications on their “read” list.

The JLI site can be found at:
http://www.libraryinnovation.org/index

The mission of JLI is “to disseminate research and information on innovative practice in libraries of all types.” Articles cover a wide range of topics that tend to have library user services and user experiences as common themes, though topics addressed are not exclusively these. With five years of publication completed, the journal offers feature articles, “from the field” reports on innovative practice, as well as reviews of books, conferences and products.

Sampling Volume 5 (2014), articles cover: single board computers for patron access, open (no or low cost) education resources, the emerging next-generation ILS, information ethics, “JustPublics@365 POOC,” and e-resource management. From the field reports include: marketing the academic library, library digital learning objects, weeding, using digital cameras for information literacy, digital exhibits, live action gaming, using archive collections in undergraduate programs, and use of blogs and social media in library outreach.

JLI comes to us as a peer reviewed, open access publication through the Open Journal Systems platform. We can thank its editorial team for their fine service to the library community: Pamela Jones, David Schoen, Ann Medaille, Ellie Nava-Jones, Chad Taylor, Samantha Gust and George Emery.

Similar to JLI, this issue of Collaborative Librarianship, Volume 6, no. 4, includes articles of wide scope. Insight comes from the University of Denver Libraries on transforming an autonomous process to a collaborative one for its website redesign. An study of research articles in librarianship over a recent five year period shows an encouraging trend toward greater collaborative research. Following up on an initial article in Volume 6, number 1, on the intriguing “2CUL” technical services integration at Columbia and Cornell Universities, Harcourt and LeBlanc provide an update on recent challenges and changing directions of the project. A report describes initiatives in Nigeria and other regions in Africa to expand professional development opportunities for librarians aimed at deepening their role in knowledge-based community development. Lori Ayre offers a very helpful overview of the changing face of cataloging and resource description that will lead to better linking of resources and greater access. Is MARC really dying (at last)? Reviews of two models of librarianship – Machiavellian and Embedded – complete this issue and volume.

Your comments and article contributions are always welcomed.