



Letter from the Editors

FROM THE EDITOR

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As we launch volume 3 of JLOE, readers may note we've changed our publication schedule. When we dreamed this journal into existence we underestimated how much work is required to publish semiannually. This work is too important to do haphazardly or discontinue entirely, so we decided to publish just one exceptionally superb issue per year.

And we believe the proof is in the pudding— this year we have one superb issue with both breadth and depth. This issue covers topics ranging from going viral with witchcraft, to escape rooms, to outreach in STEM libraries, and more. We are also proud to share that some of these fantastic articles are success stories from our pre-peer review program and showcase the perspective of librarians who are newer to publishing research.

Additionally, this issue also contains a thought-provoking “Idea Lab” article, which explores ethical quandaries associated with libraries using potentially exploitative social media networks like Twitter/X and the Metaverse. The responses we received to our call for contributions represent a wide range of viewpoints. Although we may not agree with or endorse all of them, we respect the honesty and vulnerability of our contributors who address such a fraught and complex issue.

Speaking directly and honestly in today's political and cultural climate can feel risky. Indeed, we at JLOE are dismayed by the decision by the Montana State Library Commission to withdraw from the American Library Association due to their animus toward ALA president Emily Drabinski's politics and sexual orientation. The rise in open expressions of homophobia and bigotry under the guise of free speech is horrifying, as is the rampant anti-intellectual, anti-education stance taken up by the far-right.

We need to take a stand against bigotry and also protect academic freedom. If you have not already done so, consider signing this [Letter of Support](#) for Emily Drabinski. Also, consider whether you are in a position to utilize your professional experiences to organize resistance against authoritarian policies. If you do take up this call to action, might you also consider writing about it for our 2024 issue of JLOE?

We'd like to announce that the 2023 issue is founder and editor Matthew Roberts' last issue with us. Matt is leaving the world of libraries to pursue a new career track in higher education. Matt's impact on JLOE cannot be overstated; indeed, it was his brief email message “Maybe we should start a journal :)” that started this entire adventure. From the beginning, Matt has shown up, worked hard, and helped his co-editors grow in our own editorial roles. His tireless work made our pre-peer review program possible and his editing has directly improved many of our articles. Even as we congratulate Matt and wish him continued success, he leaves huge shoes to fill.

To that end, we have taken on two new editors to join our team: Kimberly Shotick and Janis Shearer. Kimberly is a longtime JLOE Editorial Advisory Board member and an assistant professor and Student Success Librarian at Northern Illinois University. They are well-known in the field of library outreach and engagement both via their research and work on national committees. Janis is an assistant professor and Public Services & Engagement Librarian at the University of Illinois and brings a wealth of professional experience in library outreach and engagement as well as experience as a researcher and peer-reviewer. We can't wait to benefit from both of their expertise for the 2024 issue. In the meantime, enjoy the 2023 issue and we look forward to your submissions for volume 4!