



Letter from the Editors

FROM THE EDITOR

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We start this letter with two pieces of exciting news. First, a new co-editor-in-chief joins our staff to keep JLOE thriving. Our second piece of news is that after some pandemic-related setbacks, we are back on track to publish two issues a year. And this issue has some exciting content. But before we dive into this issue's content, we would like to introduce María Emerson, our newest member of the JLOE editorial team. If you've noticed fun new content on the JLOE Twitter and Facebook accounts, you can thank María.

María started working at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the summer of 2021 as the Student Success Librarian. For the past six years, she actively developed outreach programs for academic libraries, and she is very excited to join the JLOE team. María has experience from very small to very large institutions. She feels that no matter what type or size of library, it is important to find ways to reach and engage with users. María likes thinking outside the box and trying new ideas in libraries, especially if it is something that is not thought of as a "traditional" library program or role. Because of that, she is excited to work with a journal that publishes work that represents a wide variety of services and programs, and that encourages its readers to consider new ways to interact with their library users.

The expansion of our editorial board is not the only matter that is new for us this spring. In this issue, you will read our first international submission, discover peer reviewed pieces representing the work of public libraries, and a special solicited piece about librarianship in Ukraine. In addition, this issue's Idea Lab feature discusses the critical and timely topic of engaging with the public in light of increased pressure to ban books in the United States.

As the ongoing pandemic continues to impact the work that librarians do, several of this issue's articles address the effects of COVID-19 on existing library services and programs. Dietrich and Hinds exhibit agile planning skills to pivot a multi-institutional collaboration into a successful virtual event, while McElroy and Weis focused on alleviating the isolation many students felt as campus, and the rest of the world, closed. Finally, Anna Moorhouse examines how the pandemic inspired her and her colleagues to develop and implement a narrative-based communications strategy. Such an approach effectively and strategically promotes essential library services and represents their significance to patrons who may not have direct access to them.

Alongside these articles, readers will find other scholarly works and featured articles that concern a wide variety of issues and interests. Kristen Shuyler and Christopher Marcum focus on how students experience library outreach programming, and their articles examine how students enable librarians to assess their work with greater precision. On the topic of assessment, John Jackson provides a foundation to analyze the relative engagement of outreach program attendees.

Following the issue's release, we will continue our ongoing "Authors' Series" program. Hosted online, the initiative provides a setting for authors to discuss their work, and allows readers to engage with each author in order to learn more about their scholarship. We're planning for these sometime in mid-September, so keep an eye on our social media accounts for more information.

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