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Libraries and the Pandemic: From the Editors

Norene Erickson et Tamara Noor

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Editors' Comments

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Libraries and the Pandemic: From the Editors

The year 2020 prompted libraries across and beyond Canada to be more flexible in the ways they offer reference and instruction services to their patrons, onboard new staff, and make their collections available. For Volume 16.1, we asked library and information science professionals across the country to submit articles to our Features section for our “Libraries and the Pandemic” themed issue. I was delighted as submissions rolled in from school librarians, data librarians working in academic libraries, members of a provincial library association, and virtual librarians, to name a few.

As I read each submission, it became more evident to me than ever that despite working in different types of environments, many library and information science professionals shared common challenges throughout the pandemic: adjusting to a work-from-home environment; helping our patrons find and make sense of the flood of COVID-19 data; and staying on top of continuous service delivery changes, government announcements regarding stay-at-home orders and reopening plans, and the ebb and flow of the first, second, and third waves of this pandemic. However, what struck me even more than the common challenges was the resilience and eagerness of our contributors to continue providing their patrons with valuable library services despite the numerous obstacles. Throughout this very difficult time, library professionals have demonstrated their ability to help patrons cope with the effects of the pandemic by providing access to materials that entertain and inform. They have also used digital tools such as listservs, communication platforms, and VPNs to stay connected to colleagues. Library professionals have proven once again that they are able to adapt to change and overcome barriers.

When I first became Partnership’s Features Section Editor, I envisioned the Features section as a place where library professionals from all sectors could write honest and thought-provoking articles on their challenges and triumphs, so that we could not only learn from each other but also celebrate each other’s accomplishments. This “Libraries and the Pandemic” themed issue is a perfect example of my vision. I want to thank all of our contributors for taking the time to share their experiences. I hope that as our readers dive into this latest issue, they feel validated in their struggles, moved by the

perseverance of fellow library and information science professionals, and maybe even inspired to adopt some of the innovative practices that our contributors have described.

Tamara Noor

Features Section Editor

I am about halfway through my three-year term as Editor-in-Chief and have only recently started getting comfortable with the complex process of publishing an academic journal. I have learned how important it is to have a skilled and dedicated editorial team. Most of our current team members have been with the Journal for a long time and really know their stuff (as evidenced from Tamara Noor's comments above). They are all volunteers. They are professionals from across Canada and the U.S. with full-time careers and busy lives, and they have taken on roles such as section editor, production editor, copyeditor, proofreader, translator, social media coordinator, and layout editor. With diligence, this team works to make sure our biannual issues are published on time and with the highest of quality. I want to thank every single member of this dedicated team for making this one of my most enjoyable professional service roles.

If you have been thinking about getting involved in the publishing industry (specifically within the library and information sciences discipline), please reach out to me at partnershipjournal@gmail.com and we can provide you with more information on the various roles and opportunities.

Norene Erickson

Editor-in-Chief