



Introduction to Volume 10 Issue 1

On December 11, 2008, the SLA Board of Directors approved the formation of the SLA Academic Division, a community designed to be a home for the many librarians and information professionals working in colleges, universities, and other institutions affiliated with higher education. It soon became apparent that this thriving new SLA group needed its own international, open access, peer-reviewed journal, a place to share and explore practical approaches and ideas in academic librarianship.

Thus, after a year or so of development, Founding Editor Leslie J. Reynolds launched the first issue of *Practical Academic Librarianship: The International Journal of the SLA Academic Division* on March 29, 2011.

From the beginning, the journal focused on providing a venue for active conversations on the topics of most interest to division membership. In their welcome to the first issue, “Becoming the Change We Seek,” *PAL* Founding Editor Leslie J. Reynolds and SLA Academic Division Chair Chris Miller wrote:

“One of the first goals of the recently formed Academic Division of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) was to develop an open access refereed journal focused on the practical side of academic librarianship. We recognized that, in order for this endeavor to succeed, our goal could not merely be to add yet another library-focused journal into the mix. Rather, we needed to develop a highly regarded, top-tier refereed journal that would provide some gravitas for our authors, many of whom are at tenure-granting institutions and regard peer-reviewed works as vital to the system of academic professional advancement. In the highly competitive journal environment, our goal is to attract both well-known reviewers and quality research papers to help build the reputation of our journal while advancing the course of knowledge in the field of academic librarianship.”

PAL has certainly fulfilled that mission during its first ten years of existence, featuring thought-provoking, well-written articles from a wide variety of library and information professionals working across the globe. As the journal moves into its second decade, the need for advancing our work in academic librarianship is just as needed as it was in 2011.

PAL took a hiatus last year and now re-emerges in a time of overwhelming global uncertainty and change. The free flow of accurate, truthful information and analysis is more crucial than ever, and library professionals remain at the forefront of that effort. The pandemic is altering, perhaps irrevocably, the ways in which we live, work, and learn. SLA had already begun the process of restructuring and

rebranding—the Academic Division is now a Community, and the name of the association itself will be changed later this year.

With the transition to the new OJS3 journal management platform, thanks to the continuing generous support of the Texas Digital Library, *PAL* now has a streamlined editorial flow and a fresh look and feel. New Co-Editors Stacey Greenwell and Jennifer Bartlett, both at the University of Kentucky Libraries, bring nearly 50 years of combined experience in libraries to the renewal of *PAL*. Stacey, the original founder of the SLA Academic Division, was also instrumental in starting *PAL* in 2011. The new Editorial Board is growing, and we continue to seek new reviewers and authors.

Publishing *Practical Academic Librarianship* would not have been possible without the help of an amazing group of dedicated volunteers who spent countless hours reviewing and editing articles, doing typesetting, and advising the editors on the direction and scope of the journal. Although there are far too many people to thank here, we would particularly like to recognize Abby Thorne, Larissa Glasser, all the authors and reviewers who have contributed over the years, and our colleagues at the Texas Digital Library, without whom the journal could not be published.

And finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to the vision and hard work of Leslie J. Reynolds, Founding Editor, who continues to remain on the Editorial Board. Thank you all.

We hope you enjoy this new issue!