



Introduction to Volume 11, Issue 1

When we took over the editorship of *Practical Academic Librarianship* in February 2020, we met regularly at a little coffee shop across the street from the main library brainstorming ideas, contacting current and potential authors, and working on all the many tasks that go into publishing a peer-reviewed journal. Little did any of us expect what disruption we would all experience over the next thirty months (and counting...)! As we write this introduction in December 2021, that little coffee shop has closed, many of us are still working primarily online, a new variant of COVID-19 is spreading, social justice remains a struggle, and misinformation and mistrust run rampant throughout the world. Within our academic institutions, traditional formats of working and learning are perhaps permanently altered, declining enrollments are a long-term concern, and continued budget cuts remain a threat.

Clearly it is a challenging time in our world socially, politically, and economically, and libraries continue to find ways to provide equal access to information and support our communities in such uncertain times. In *Practical Academic Librarianship*, our desire is to publish thoughtful, timely articles that continue to address daily practical matters as well as those that consider these greater issues and the role academic libraries can play.

Despite these challenges, we do have some exciting news to share! The SLA Academic Community, the group which founded this journal eleven years ago, has merged with the SLA Education Community to form the new SLA Academic and Education Community. The former Education Community has been a presence in SLA since 1974 and brings to the former Academic Community a number of members with new voices and perspectives to share. The former Education Community has been publishing SLA's first peer-reviewed journal, *Education Libraries*, continuously since 1975, and we encourage you to explore that content. While the new Academic and Education Community expects to continue separate journals each with a separate focus, we are looking for ways to collaborate to strengthen both journals.

This issue of *Practical Academic Librarianship* includes two articles on different aspects of collection development and management. A. Carey Huddleston describes a study designed to help librarians analyze and develop a performing arts collection in "Material Format Preference of Music Faculty at Kennesaw State University." In "Weeding Ebooks at an Academic Library," Marc Jaffy at Franklin University Library (Columbus, OH) shares insights following a recent eBook collection management project. We hope you enjoy reading them!

For 2022, we already have several articles in our queue and are always looking for more on current,

practical, and larger issues related to academic libraries. We encourage you to review our [submission guidelines](#) and share with your colleagues who may be interested in submitting their work or applying to be a peer reviewer.

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, we would particularly like to recognize Abby Thorne (copy editor since the journal was founded in 2011), Larissa Glasser (layout editor who joined us in 2020), all the authors and reviewers who have contributed over the years, the PAL Editorial Board, and our colleagues at the Texas Digital Library, without whom the journal could not be published. Special thanks to Beth Kraemer from the University of Kentucky for formatting this issue. 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.

And of course, we continue to thank you as our readers who support us in so many ways. We always welcome feedback and hope you enjoy the journal!

Dr. Stacey Greenwell and Ms. Jennifer Bartlett
Co-Editors, *Practical Academic Librarianship*