



Editorial

Comments from the Managing Editor

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Innovation can lead us in new directions, cause us to discover something new about ourselves and the communities we serve, and create connections we never thought of before. As a manager, I find it important to allow innovation to happen—get out of the way and let people try something new—whether the innovation ends up being a success or not. At Medaille, we are a small staff working at 3 campuses. Communication can be challenging. We use wikis to document our procedures, track some statistics, and report on our work. While the wikis work well for many things, they don't encourage conversation. Since it is almost impossible to hold meetings for the entire staff, we looked for a way to share ideas more regularly and in a more social context. We decided to set up a private social network. We hoped a private social network would enable us to easily share best practices, work on projects across campuses, and work well as a system. But, our innovative take on conversation was a resounding fail. We didn't like remembering to sign into one more Web-based tool on a regular basis. For us, talking on the phone, following up with emails, and meeting in small groups continues to work best for conversations—even when our campuses are 60 miles apart. Our assessment of the social network trial was that the wikis were working well, so stick with them; conversations are best had in person or on the telephone. What did I learn from this experience? It is perfectly fine to try something new and admit that it doesn't work. Let go of what doesn't work, and move on. We are now exploring new ways for sharing our expertise and best practices—in person.

I am not an expert on the subject of innovation, but nevertheless, I became the managing editor of a journal about innovation in libraries. In reading the many submissions, it is obvious that there are a number of bright, enthusiastic librarians willing to embrace

the evolving nature of our profession by harnessing the power of technology to connect to patrons, by looking to other professions for applicable methods of marketing and management, and by reaching across institutional boundaries to share expertise with other librarians. They are not afraid to have fun and they are not afraid to fail. How can you be innovative if you are afraid of failure?

This issue highlights the successful innovative work of librarians across the United States. The topics covered include state-wide collaborative learning, the integration of library resources in course management software, providing library-based service learning opportunities for students, and providing low-cost access to digitized content using Encoded Archival Description (EAD). This issue's reviews are of books about open source applications, marketing, and gaming. Pam Sandlian Smith, the Director of the Anythink Libraries, has written an editorial about the process of using creative thought to create a library experience that challenges all traditional models.

I would like to thank some people who helped the editors "behind the scenes": Chad Taylor and Keri Hyde from Medaille College expertly verified references, and Sally McGill from Niagara University provided editorial assistance.

With the publication of our third issue, it is time for JOLI to transition to new editors. Section Editor David Schoen and I have been involved with the journal for four years and will be ending our terms as editors at this time. We have devoted a great deal of time and energy to establishing the peer review process and defending the choice for open access. The articles are being read and cited. We have a steady stream of submissions. A recent call for authors of reviews provided a large pool of candidates to work with. Now that many of the editorial and publication processes have been worked out, it is a good time to transition to new editors. Ann Tenglund will take over my position as Managing Editor. I welcome Debra Lucas of D'Youville College and Marie Bindeman as Section Editors. Samantha Gust will continue as the Reviews Editor. Working on JOLI has been a wonderful experience for me, and I know I leave it in good hands.

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