

A New Look for *Library Resources & Technical Services*

Rachel E. Scott and Michael Fernandez

Those of you who enjoyed the double issue on open access likely noticed that *Library Resources and Technical Services (LRTS)* articles have a new look. After years of maintaining its signature double-column layout, *LRTS* is now published in a single-column format. What prompted the change, you ask? A few months ago, a reader reached out to request that *LRTS* switch to a single-column format. The reader rightly noted that the change would improve the accessibility of the content. Specifically, the formatting issue relates to screen reader technology. Screen readers frequently default to reading text from left to right, top to bottom. The dual column format increases the chances that text may be read by the screen reader out of order, which is compounded on pages that also include tables or figures. The linearity of the single-column format mitigates this potential issue with screen readers. Accordingly, the single-column request was brought immediately to the *LRTS* Editorial Board and delivered in the very next issue. The change may seem minor, but we're quite pleased that we can respond in an agile manner to such requests, and appreciative that ALA Production Services was able to quickly facilitate said change.

We share this peek behind the rather mundane curtain of editorial correspondence for a few reasons. First, we take reader input very seriously. If you have questions, concerns, or requests, we want to hear from you. Second, scholarly communication is an ever evolving field and *LRTS* must continually improve. We welcome your input on how best to do so. Finally, issues of inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility are better understood now than previously. As we learn more about how to present *LRTS* content in a manner that is inclusive, accessible, and incorporates diverse perspectives in an equitable manner, we will do so.

Clearly, these questions of how to make our field more equitable are on your mind as well. Submissions to *LRTS* over the past year have reiterated that librarians working within collections, scholarly communication, and technical services are thinking deeply about inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility. These submissions touch upon different facets of technical services work falling under our scope; what they have in common is a shared level of engagement with making tangible improvements. We are pleased that even without putting out a call for themed submissions, the upcoming issue of *LRTS* will be dedicated to these issues and their intersections with the work of collection development, cataloging, library systems administration, and electronic resource management. More soon!

At *LRTS*, our readers are our content creators, and vice versa. As a shared value of our profession, we can support accessibility in both the articles we present and the way we present those articles. We're happy to share this commitment with you and look forward to hearing more of what you have to say.

In this issue, readers will find insight into . . .

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Communications on Practice

1. Greta Heng, Patricia Lampron, and Myung-Ja Han provide a detailed assessment of the linked data editors Sinopia and Marva. They compare these editors' supported features and functions to discuss the characteristics of an ideal editor and consider the implications of increased library production of linked data.

Articles

1. In "Finding Balance: Examining the Experiences of Supervisory Technical Services Librarians on the Tenure Track," Susan Howell and Tammie Busch present findings from focus groups conducted with technical services librarians who manage departments while working to fulfill the requirements of tenure. Their findings are presented in the context of tendencies to devalue technical services relative to public-facing departments. Participants detail how their supervisory responsibilities adversely impact the amount of time they can devote to the requirements of tenure and a need for more support.
2. Jim Hahn uses a survey of catalogers working in linked data as a starting point to explore semi-automated technology for subject assignment, including users' expectations, their input in its development, supported languages and genres of controlled vocabularies. Hahn leveraged genre attributes from the survey to inform bifurcating machine learning models in Annif to investigate the performance of bifurcated machine learning models compared to general models with no bifurcation of genre. These bifurcations (or branching points) served as the basis for machine learning model development and evaluation. The initial results indicate that measures of mean precision and recall improved for several genres in the bifurcated model.
3. In "Hidden Collections and Rare Books Cataloging: A Review of the Literature," Mary Burns examines trends in cataloging rare books and special collections. Burns explores factors that contribute to hidden collections including the need for trained staff and the fuller levels of cataloging required to adequately describe the artifactual values of rare books.
4. Michael Buckland interrogates conflicting terminology and methodological approaches in scholarship on search methods and suggests that discussion of search methods—specifically the distinction between known item search and subject search—has been inadequately theorized. Buckland leverages the documentary terminology of social psychologist Robert Pagès and philosopher E. J. Lowe's four-category ontological framework to address this theoretical gap. The author problematizes the phrase "subject search" by treating it as a subset of a broader "not-known item search" and leverage it as a useful way of describing particular, prevalent search behaviors.

Notes on Operations

1. In "Implementing a Transparent and Sustainable E-resource Assessment Plan in an Era of Continual Change," Taylor Ralph provides guidance for implementing an e-resources assessment plan that is holistic, systematic, and sustainable. Given the cost and increasing proportion of library budgets spent on e-resources, the need for ongoing assessment is evident; operationalizing

it, however, presents many challenges. Ralph outlines the plan devised for Oregon State University which offers several actionable steps to readers.

2. Leila Sterman explores ten years of data from Montana State University's Open Access Author Fund to evaluate the service and its impact on local publishing. Sterman argues that librarians are stewards of publicly funded knowledge and must critically analyze each new publishing route they support. Ultimately critical of hybrid open access publishing, Sterman advocates for gathering data to understand how librarians' actions and decisions transfer, disrupt, or perpetuate existing systems in scholarly communication.

Book Reviews

Books reviewed include *Cataloging and Classification: An Introduction, Fifth Edition* by Athena Salaba and Lois Mai Chan; *Copyright: Best Practices for Academic Libraries* edited by Donna L. Ferullo and Dwayne K. Butler; *Crash Course in Collection Development, Third Edition* by Wayne Disher; and *Making a Collection Count: A Holistic Approach to Library Collection Management, Third Edition* by Holly Hibner and Mary Kelly.