

# Charting an Open Future

Michael Fernandez and Rachel E. Scott

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Here at *LRTS*, we are excited to mark the conclusion of our third year as a fully open access (OA) journal. The editors feel honored to be able to showcase top-tier research and new developments in best practice within the field of library technical services, brought directly to our readers without paywalls or embargoes and without article fees for our authors. Nonetheless, making content OA is one matter; sustainability for open publishing is another matter altogether.

That sustainability for *LRTS* has been top of mind since we followed the lead of our ALA Core sister journals, *Information Technology and Libraries (ITAL)* and *Library Leadership & Management (LL&M)*, becoming a fully OA publication in 2023. Since that time, the editorial teams of all three journals have worked closely with Core leadership to devise methods to sustain our commitment to openness. In doing so, we've sought out the support of the library community, looking to proven methods being used in the still nascent area of open publishing. It's now easier than ever for libraries to help sustain the continued excellence and availability of *LRTS* and the other Core journals to readers worldwide. In partnering with major subscription agents that most libraries already work with—EBSCO and Harrassowitz—libraries can provide continuing support and keep our publications open. Libraries can simply select the “ALA/Core Division Open Access Journals” collection through their agent, and for the annual cost of \$300, they can ensure that the high-quality content published in these journals continues to be freely available to all.

By spreading open access publishing costs across many contributing institutions, we can ensure the sustainable and fair funding of the ALA Core Division journals. The ability to use a preferred subscription agent—the same one you use as a primary provider for your library's subscription—makes showing your support as simple as managing any journal subscription. A new mechanism for inviting contributions across multiple institutions has been led by the Core Division Fundraising Committee. They have reached out to various library consortia to facilitate group and individual contributions. Finally, direct contributions can be made to the American Library Association Core Division (<https://ec.ala.org/donate>) with a designation of support for Core Journals Open Access Publishing. Your participation—whether via subscription agent, consortia, or direct donation—secures the availability and independence of three fundamental library and information science journals into the future. In recognition of your support for open publishing, participating institutions will be acknowledged on the ALA/Core website.

As editors, we carry the same excitement and enthusiasm for keeping *LRTS* open as we did when we began this journey in 2023. So much so that we've re-upped our commitment and will remain on board as the editorial team for the next three years. As always, we're grateful to the dedicated volunteers who

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comprise our Editorial Board. We're also working with new staff within ALA Production Services and are fully confident that we will continue to deliver the same quality of content while maintaining our commitment to openness. We look forward to continuing this journey with you.

## Communications on Practice

In "No Little Plans: Constructing a Local Controlled Vocabulary in EXPLORE Chicago Collections," Kate Flynn and Erin Matson detail the collaborative, volunteer-led approach taken by The Chicago Collections Consortium to create a local, regional vocabulary for the EXPLORE Chicago Collections discovery platform. The authors demonstrate how the vocabulary creates uniformity in access points for content and collections across member organizations and contributes to a seamless user interface.

## Features

Adrienne Sanders and Karen Snow report findings from a survey conducted among cataloging and metadata professionals. In "Core Competencies in Practice: Exploring Catalogers' Alignment with Professional Standards," they investigate the relationship between librarians' self-assessed knowledge and skills with those described in the 2023 revision of the American Library Association's *Core Competencies for Cataloging and Metadata Professional Librarians*. The authors found that study participants reported having a good or full understanding of most Knowledge core competencies, even if they did not regularly apply many Skill/Ability core competencies. The authors reiterate that the proliferation of standards and technologies, coupled with an increased complexity of cataloging and metadata, have made competence "a seemingly Sisyphean task" and underscores the importance of continually updating the *Core Competencies* and incorporating them into ongoing education and training.

In "It's About Time: Use of the Extended Date/Time Format in the Digital Public Library of America," Annamarie C. Klose, Scott Goldstein, and Morris S. Levy assess the impact of Extended Date/Time Format (EDTF) in one of the largest aggregators of library, archives, and museum metadata. Although values corresponding with EDTF have increased compared to a 2015 study, the percentage of records with at least one date value has decreased. The authors contextualize these findings and provide recommendations for working with the metadata that power browsing, search, and visualization.

## Notes on Operations

In "From Niche to Norm: A Case Study of Zines in a Circulating Collection," Emilee Mathews and María Evelia Emerson outline the opportunities and challenges zines pose in terms of access, cataloging, preservation, digitization, special collections, research, and student engagement. This case study details the creation of a social justice–focused zine collection and is contextualized with findings from a literature review and survey on library practices for zine collections.

Frederick C. Carey, Arthur Aguilera, Amanda Rybin Koob, Juleah Swanson, Natalia Tingle Dolan, and Alexander Watkins leverage Diane Gusa's "White Institutional Presence" framework to critically examine collection practices. The "Anti-Racist Collections Workbook: A Tool for Building Inclusive Library Collections" provides questions in several categories—cataloging and classification, selecting materials, purchasing materials, approval profiles, weeding, and community engagement—that enable librarians to reconsider established practices and create inclusive, representative collections that better serve all communities, moving beyond superficial representation to address structural inequities in library systems.

## Book Reviews

Books reviewed include *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management*, Fifth Edition by Peggy Johnson and Mary Beth Weber, and *Records and Information Management*, Third Edition by Patricia C. Franks.