

# From the Editor

Barry Trott

Welcome to volume 60 of *RUSQ: A Journal of Reference and User Experience*, the scholarly journal of the Reference and User Services Association. The journal launched in November of 1960 and was published quarterly through volume 59:2 (2019), when it went on hiatus. In 2021, I worked with the RUSA Office staff and then RUSA President Courtney McDonald to publish a joint *RUSQ* 59:3–4 to round out that volume. The same year, the RUSA Board commissioned a taskforce to explore the role of scholarly publishing in the division, and it was decided, based on surveys and interviews with RUSA members, sections, and the scholarly publishing world, that there was a strong interest in having RUSA publish a peer-reviewed journal that focused on reference and user services, drawn broadly and offering content for librarians in all types of libraries. I am honored to have been asked to step back into the role of editor, which I held from 2012 to 2018.

The scope of the journal includes all aspects of library services to adults in all types of libraries. *RUSQ* publishes articles of interest to librarians in areas including but not limited to:

1. general and subject-specific reference
2. user experience
3. readers advisory
4. collection development
5. resource sharing
6. instruction
7. genealogy and archives
8. business reference
9. reference technology

*RUSQ* welcomes submissions that offer new perspectives and ideas on these and other topics relating to serving library users.

In response to the nature of our rapidly evolving field, the journal publishes empirical (quantitative and qualitative), theoretical, and historical research and essays as peer-reviewed featured articles. Through its columns and reports, the journal also publishes professional information on a wide range of topics of current interest. *RUSQ* Reviews, a supplemental online review source provides timely reviews of reference materials and professional reading.

I am fortunate to have an excellent editorial board who have helped to shape the focus of the journal. The board members come from a variety of library backgrounds, including the academic, public, and LIS fields. Board members are:

- Jenny Bossaller
- Jen Hunter
- Vanessa Irvin
- Melissa Jeter
- Jessica Jones
- Courtney McDonald
- Carolyn Mulac
- Dave Tyckoson
- Amy Vanscoy
- Melissa Wong

*RUSQ* also will continue to offer columns that present an opportunity to preview initial studies, look at questions or topics that fit outside the peer-review process, and provide concrete ideas that can be implemented in libraries. The column topics were developed after surveying RUSA members and discussing the results of the survey with the *RUSQ* Board. I am excited about the lineup of columns and the column editors:

- Collection Development (Matthew Galloway, editor)
- Library Management (Julia Martin and Dr. Jo Philips, co-editors)
- Marketing (Yvonne Dooley, editor)
- Readers' Advisory (Craig Clark, editor)
- Reference Services and Instruction (Rebecca Graff, editor)

The column editors will introduce themselves and their visions for the columns in this and future issues.

My background is in public libraries, where I worked for 24 years primarily in reference and user services positions, and since 2021, I have worked as the adult services consultant in the Library Development and Networking Division at the Library of Virginia. In this role, I provide support to adult services library staff in the 94 public library systems in the state. As a RUSA member for nearly 30 years, I have found that my work has been informed and strengthened by the opportunity to talk and share ideas with librarians outside the public library world. This is one of RUSA's unique strengths, bringing together librarians around a services type rather than a library type. I think that this has also been a strength of *RUSQ*. My vision for the journal is to present feature articles and columns that engage and challenge us in ways that keep reference and user services, in all its forms and in all types of libraries, vital, exciting, and relevant.

I look forward to hearing from you all about the journal, what we are doing well and what could better help you in your work, the critical work of building informed communities, regardless of the type of library you are in. A strong library is a sign of a healthy, thriving community, and I thank you for the good, important work you do every day in your libraries to make this vision real.