Journal of eScience Librarianship
putting the pieces together: theory and practice

Editorial

Charting a New Path: The Evolution of the *Journal of eScience Librarianship*

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Focus

The Journal of eScience Librarianship (JeSLIB) has been successful in providing quality and timely scholarship in the area of data science and library services. However, it is a wise strategy to gather feedback and suggestions from readership when planning future changes and initiatives.

Launched in 2012 with funding from the National Network of Library of Medicine, New England Region (NNLM, NER) and the Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, the *Journal of eScience Librarianship* (*JeSLIB*) was one of the first open access, peer-reviewed journals to explore the role of librarians in supporting scientific research data management, principles and practices. The journal is one of a suite of scholarly activities growing out of the discussions at numerous meetings that took place in New England amongst science, engineering, and health sciences librarians focused on framing research data management as a curricular endeavor important to the field of librarianship.

During an eScience Symposium hosted by the University of Massachusetts Medical School that was held in the spring prior to the journal launch, *JeSLIB* Editorial Board member Jake Carlson and I led a town hall meeting designed to elicit feedback from attendees about their

interest in having a journal focused on the challenges of data science from the library perspective. Attendees were asked specifically about the types of articles readers would want and their thoughts about how publishing in an e-only environment would influence the definition of a journal.

From that event, a publication strategy developed in which research articles, case studies, practice-based readings, book reviews, and video interviews became the featured content. In addition, attendees suggested creating issues around specific themes such as data literacy, the role of the informationist, or how to start data services. Instead of waiting for an entire issue to be completed before publishing, attendees suggested a publication strategy focusing on publishing articles individually as ready.

I am proud to report that four years later, all of these strategies have been realized and more. As this editorial goes to press, we have published 77 articles, including three video articles, and the journal has accumulated more than 73,000 total downloads.

Given the journal's current success and growth in librarian involvement in data science, the current editorial board has been reflecting on the future of journal publication and *JeSLIB* in particular. Some of the more recent discussions have been on broadening the scope to include the intersection of the digital humanities and the sciences. Other discussions have focused on open science and open peer review, and what the implications of implementing these initiatives may be for this journal.

It is time to chart a new path for the *Journal of eScience Librarianship*.

We would again like to hear your feedback. What has worked well for this journal? What areas of focus would you like to see us pursue during the next four years? What would you think about open peer review? Are there other types of articles you would like to see published?

Email me at Elaine_Martin@hms.harvard.edu.

With your support and suggestions, we are looking forward to a new look, an expanded focus, and many more years of providing quality, informative, and thought-provoking open access scholarship.