PaLA | College & Research Division (CRD)

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

Editors' Welcome

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Welcome! We are excited to present the first issue of *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice.* Also known as *PaLRaP*, this new publication is for anyone who works in or cares about libraries in Pennsylvania.

This initiative began in early 2012 at the request of Linda Neyer (Bloomsburg University), chair of the Pennsylvania Library Association's (PaLA) College & Research Division (CRD). This effort grew out of a perceived need for enhanced communication among academic librarians across the Commonwealth. Additionally, while some of the work of Pennsylvania's library professionals appears in the existing library literature, many noteworthy accomplishments and ideas are never shared because the content may not be the right fit for another publication. A number of CRD members also expressed significant interest in a new online open access publication and provided a great deal of positive feedback and suggestions in response to a 2012 survey (Figures 1 & 2). The 267 responding members indicated a desire to read articles on a wide range of topics featuring local authors, with a balance between original research and reports of other activities in Pennsylvania's libraries.
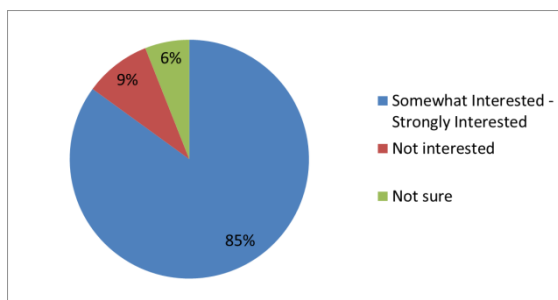

Figure 1. *How interested would you be in reading an online peer-reviewed open access publication of the College & Research Division?*
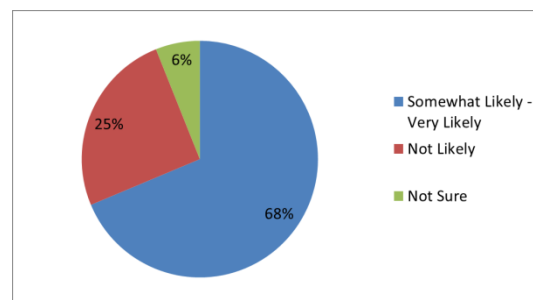

Figure 2. *How likely would you be to submit articles to such a publication?*

"Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions…OA is compatible with copyright, peer review, revenue (even profit), print, preservation, prestige, quality, career-advancement, indexing, and other features and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature. . .The primary difference is that the bills are not paid by readers and hence do not function as access barriers" (P. Suber, 2013). For an overview of open access and scholarly publishing, be sure to see Peter Suber's *Very Brief Introduction to Open Access* (2004).

Although *PaLRaP* will have a strong focus on academic libraries, we encourage all library and information professionals, students, library staff, and anyone else with an interest in libraries to consider sharing your knowledge, ideas, and experiences with readers across Pennsylvania and beyond. *PaLRaP* welcomes submissions in several categories including

- Research – Original studies and descriptive or theoretical articles based on evidence and data;
- Practice – Detailed reports of library services or activities that could benefit our readers;
- Commentary – Original essays and thoughtful discussions of current trends and challenges;
- News – Brief reports of new/unique collections, staff news such as awards and special recognition, and events or new initiatives in PA libraries.

PaLRaP is managed by a volunteer editorial board made up of members from the College & Research Division of PaLA. Editorial board members will serve two-year terms. Each submission in the Research or Practice categories will be peer reviewed by two experienced and knowledgeable librarians in Pennsylvania.

We are currently looking to increase our pool of volunteer peer-reviewers. If you are interested in being considered for this role, or would like to nominate a seasoned librarian with prior professional publishing experience, please email palrap@mail.pitt.edu.

The journal is produced using Open Journal Systems (OJS) software, which is available as open source software from the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), a scholarly research and publishing partnership engaged in "exploring whether and how new technologies can be used to improve the professional and public value of scholarly research" ("Open Journal Systems," n.d., para. 5). Although open source software is free to obtain, this does not mean it is free or simple to set up and maintain. Because of this reality, the editorial team is working in partnership with the University Library System (ULS) at the University of Pittsburgh and its E-Journal Publishing Program to gain access to technical and publishing expertise at a reasonable cost. This arrangement allows the editorial board to receive assistance with website design and hosting; ISSN registration; assignment of digital object identifiers (DOIs); article template design; registration with periodical indexes such as *Library Literature & Information Science* and the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ); publicity; and preservation with LOCKSS.

As an online open access publication, *PaLRaP* has the potential to reach a large audience, within and beyond the library profession, to share our stories and successes with the public. Articles will be published under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 3.0 US) license, the standard now recommended by the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), which allows readers to share, copy, adapt, and transmit the work as long as attribution is provided to the original author. Authors will retain ownership and simply grant *PaLRaP* the right of first publication. This means authors may enter into separate, additional contractual arrangements (e.g., post the

article/their work to an institutional repository or publish it in a book) as long as there is provided in the document an acknowledgement of its initial publication in this journal.

We expect to produce two issues of *PaLRaP* each year, one in the spring and one in the fall, with preprints made available online soon after they are accepted, using a model similar to that of *College & Research Libraries*. This inaugural issue features a thoughtful commentary from Barbara Fister, based on her remarks delivered at the 2012 College & Research Division luncheon during the annual PaLA conference in Gettysburg. This is followed by our first two articles in the research category:

- "Traits and Training: Attributes and Skills of Pennsylvania Academic Library Managers" by Russell Hall (Penn State Erie – The Behrend College), which identifies and examines some of the most important skills and traits for library leaders, as reported by current managers in Pennsylvania's academic libraries.

- "Using *The Filter Bubble* to Create a Teachable Moment: A Case Study Utilizing Online Personalization to Engage Students in Information Literacy Instruction" by Allyson Valentine (Harrisburg Area Community College – Lancaster Campus) and Laura Wukovitz (Harrisburg Area Community College – Harrisburg and York campuses), which is based on work they did while at York College of Pennsylvania.

In addition, the first issue of *PaLRaP* presents three articles highlighting innovative practices from Pennsylvania libraries:

- "The Heritage Hunt: From Start to Update" by George J. Aulisio (University of Scranton)
- "Making Your Mobile Device an Art Expert: Using QR Codes to Tell the Story behind artiFACTS in Your Library" by Jessica Howard and Carolyn Sautter (Gettysburg College)
- "Using Social Media to Build International Collaboration" by Mark Douglas Puterbaugh (Eastern University) and Hua Sun (Shandong University of Arts, People's Republic of China).

In this issue you will also read several news items reporting details of notable events from across the Commonwealth.

We encourage you to register on the journal website (www.palrap.org) as a reader in order to post comments in response to articles and to receive notifications of new issues. You may also register as an author in order to submit articles for a future issue.

Please share your comments and suggestions with the editorial board as we work to develop this publication. What would you like to see? *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice* is *your* library journal. Please help us share your scholarship, practices, accomplishments, and good work with the world.

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