PaLA | College & Research Division (CRD)

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

PaLRaP, Act II

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And they said it could not be done! Welcome to Volume 1, Number 2, of *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice (PaLRaP)*.

Actually, no one said it could not be done, that we would not be able to publish a second issue of *PaLRaP* by the end of October as originally planned. However, there has been a wait-and-see approach on how we would follow our opening act. In addition, there was a little anxiety on the part of the editorial team when we issued our call for articles in the summer of 2013. What if we did not receive any submissions? What if we did not get any articles that fit the scope of the journal and were appropriate to the quality we hope to achieve through this publication?

We did not need to worry. Once again, numerous volunteer editors and peer reviewers helped to process the generous crop of new submissions, some of which you will see in this issue and others that we hope to share with you in future issues. However, we are always ready to see more of your research and practice articles, your commentaries, and your news. Please visit our website, www.palrap.org to register as an author and share your work with us.

Taking stock of our first two issues, we would like to share some statistics. In Table 1, you can see the total number of articles we have published so far, as delineated by article type.

Table 1
PaLRaP published content by article type

	Vol. 1, No. 1 Spring 2013	Vol. 1, No. 2 Fall 2013	**Total**
Research	2	0	2
Practice	3	5	8
News	4	9	13
Feature*	--	1	1
Commentary	1	2	3
Editorial	1	1	2
Total	**11**	**18**	**29**

* New category for Vol. 1, No. 2, Fall 2013

Overall, our breakdown of published content looks satisfactory—45% news; 55% research, practice, feature, commentary, and editorial.
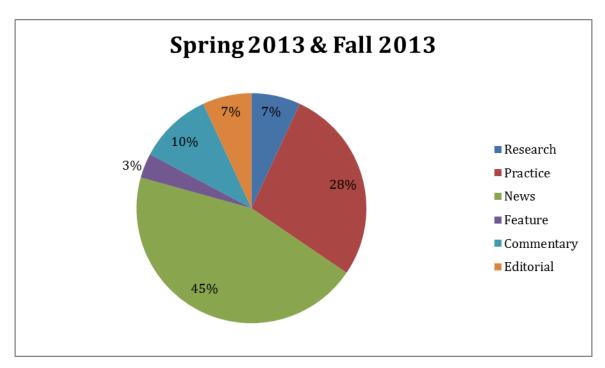

Figure 1

PaLRaP *published content by percentage of article type*

We may always have more news articles than research and practice articles. Nonetheless, the majority of content in *PaLRaP* remains research, practice, and commentary articles. News articles are short; research and practice articles and commentaries are longer, taking up many more pages than the shorter but plentiful news items. *PaLRaP* is first and foremost a peer-reviewed journal for the research output and best practices of Pennsylvania's library community, and we hope to maintain the strong presence of scholarly content in this journal.

While we are pleased with the progress to date, is anyone actually reading *PaLRaP*? Yes, happily, they are! Abstract views are available to authors and journal staff via the *PaLRaP* site and help us see how many page views each article type has received.

Table 2

Abstract views of PaLRaP *articles by article type*

Article type	Number of articles	Total abstract views	Average per article type
Research	2	1,267	633
Practice	3	1,613	537
News	4	1,468	367
Commentary	1	605	--
Editor's welcome	1	416	--

Percentage-wise, our abstract views by article type indicate significant readership for our research and practice articles during the first six months of *PaLRaP*. These numbers will only increase as more readers discover the journal's rich content in the ensuing months and years.
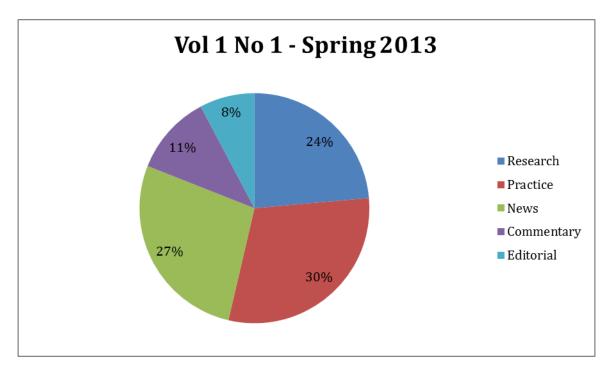

Figure 2

Abstract views of PaLRaP *articles by percentage of article type*

We also have been using Google Analytics to track our journal's readership. Geographically, our readership is overwhelmingly—but not completely—U.S. based.

Table 3
Google Analytics visitor statistics, May 1-October 15, 2013

Visits	1,494
Unique visitors	1,004
Page views	10,924
Unique page views	6,696
Average visit duration	00:05:29

Table 4
Google Analytics visitor statistics by country, May 1 – October 15, 2013

Country	Visits
United States	1,309
Egypt	18
United Kingdom	14
Palestine	13
Israel	10
India	10
Australia	9

We even received some "press" about our journal in traditional sources such as *American Libraries* and *College & Research Libraries News*, but also through social media. In addition to receiving tweets, Facebook likes, and LinkedIn mentions, two of our articles were cited on the *Collaborative Librarianship* blog.

> Kraus, J. (2013, May 7). Public library and community college collaboration [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://collaborativelibrarianship.wordpress.com/2013/05/07/public-library-and-community-college-collaboration
>
> Kraus, J. (2013, May 7). Another good article from Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://collaborativelibrarianship.wordpress.com/2013/05/07/another-good-article-from-pennsylvania-libraries-research-practice

Our inaugural issue was heralded by the *Library Intelligencer* blog from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

> Shirley. (2013, May 6). Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice inaugural issue [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/libraryintelligencer/2013/05/06/pennsylvania-libraries-research-practice-inaugual-issue-2

Perhaps that explains those 9 visits from Australia.

Small numbers perhaps, but we have to start somewhere—and it is indeed a good start. We shall see what our statistics look like once issue two is out and about. In addition, we are pleased to announce that our content should soon be available in EBSCO databases.

As our submissions have grown, so has our range of offerings. This issue includes our first "feature" article—a new category created for an article that is not quite news and not quite practice, but still a valuable contribution.

In addition, as a way to better display the many news items we have received so far, we have created a "Noteworthy" section, featuring brief highlights from Pennsylvania libraries and library colleagues. We also hope to develop a new submission system for these news briefs to simplify the process for everyone.

We believe we had a strong first issue, and we are hoping you will feel the same about this second issue. Some of the highlights from the fall issue include—

- "The Deluge of the MLIS Degree," a commentary by Julie Tulba, a distance learning librarian at a for-profit institution, on the challenges of the librarian job market.
- "Millennials and Mentoring: Why I'm Calling Out 'Bullpucky!' on Generational Differences and Professional Development, a commentary by Erin Burns, Penn State Shenango, focusing on the importance of communication and compatibility in librarian mentoring programs.
- "North and South: Archivists Document Gettysburg's 150th," by Robin Wagner, Gettysburg College, the first feature article in *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice*.

- "Online Job Tutorials @ the Public Library: Best Practices from Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Job & Career Education Center" by Rhea M. Hebert, Carnegie Mellon University, and Wesley Roberts, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.
- "Getting Started with Electronic Reference Statistics: Case Studies and Best Practices for Collection and Analysis" by Elaine Hazel Dean, Penn State Hershey, and Maureen Williams, Neumann University.
- "Everyone Likes a Challenge: Getting Students' Attention with Interactive Games and Authentic Assignments" by Theresa McDevitt, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- "Open Source Opens Doors: Repurposing Library Software to Facilitate Faculty Research and Collaboration" by Sandra L. Stump and Rosemary L. Deegan, Albright College.
- "Training with Technology: How Information Technology Enhanced the RDA Training Experience at the University of Pittsburgh" by Brenda Salem and Carlos Peña.

We hope you enjoy this second issue. As always, we look forward to its reception by you, our readers, our authors, our colleagues.

Until our next issue,

John Barnett

Tom Reinsfelder

Co-Editors, *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice*

PaLRaP needs your talents to be successful!

We are always in need of writers and peer reviewers. We are also especially in need of copyeditors. We have drafted guidelines for authors and copyeditors to make your work easier. In addition, we have created review forms that make it easier for reviewers to provide feedback to our authors.

Interested? Then be in touch by e-mail at palrap@mail.pitt.edu or visit our website at www.palrap.org.