PaLA | College & Research Division (CRD)

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

There Is Always Room for Improvement

PaLRaP's *Ongoing Evolution*

John Barnett, Anne Behler, & Tom Reinsfelder

John Barnett, jhb23@pitt.edu, Anne Behler, behler@psu.edu, and Tom Reinsfelder, tlr15@psu.edu,
are Co-Editors of Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice

We are pleased to share with you the latest issue of *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice,* also known as *PaLRaP.* This is our fifth issue and third volume. This issue is also noteworthy as being the first one co-edited by Anne Behler, Penn State University, who joined the *PaLRaP* editorial ranks at the beginning of 2015.

Do too many coeditors spoil the alphabet soup of editorial content? Not at all. There is plenty of work to go around. For this issue, Behler and Tom Reinsfelder, Penn State-Mont Alto, have served primarily as content editors, performing developmental editing, communicating with reviewers and authors, assigning manuscripts to copyeditors and layout editors, and many other tasks. John Barnett, University of Pittsburgh, has handled managing editor duties for this issue, including soliciting articles and authors, finding new reviewers, responding to correspondence, training new editorial staff, serving as *PaLRaP*'s representative to the board of the College and Research Division of the Pennsylvania Library Association (CRD-PaLA) *(PaLRaP*'s sponsor), and liaising with the journal's publisher, the University Library System of the University of Pittsburgh.

Both Behler and Reinsfelder have solicited authors, reviewers, and manuscripts as well, while Barnett served as one of the proofreaders for this issue's contents. All members of the *PaLRaP* editorial staff by default have to multitask and quickly become very good at it. Besides, as noted, there is always plenty of work.

News Editor Needed

And speaking of work, we at *PaLRaP* are always on the lookout for volunteers to contribute to our year-round editorial activities. Reviewers, copy editors, layout editors—we are always in need of experienced (or at least keenly interested) people to fill these roles.

At present, we need at least one news editor. Larissa Gordon, current president of CRD-PaLA, stepped down as news editor at the beginning of this year, so there is currently a vacancy.

What do news editors do? They

- encourage libraries and library staff around the Commonwealth to submit news items to *PaLRaP* for inclusion in the "Noteworthy" section of each issue;
- check facts, inquire about permissions, edit items for clarity and length, and request photos for some submissions;
- work closely with other members of a volunteer editorial team;
- communicate and work with authors;
- and perform copyediting and layout as needed.

PaLRaP editorial staff will provide basic training in these functions, along with training in the use of the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform.

If you are interested in being involved in *PaLRaP*'s operations and contributing to its success, becoming a news editor is a great way to do so. We are not saying it is easy, mind you; it can be just as challenging as other *PaLRaP* editorial roles. However, becoming a news editor is less time-consuming than serving as a co-editor. In other words, it is a good place to start to test your editorial interest and abilities.

If you would like to contribute to *PaLRaP*'s success and are interested in this volunteer position, please contact the *PaLRaP* editorial staff (palrap@mail.pitt.edu) and provide a copy of your résumé or CV, along with a statement about your abilities and/or why this volunteer opportunity is of interest to you. The ideal candidate would serve as news co-editor from summer 2015 until the end of 2016—or longer, if desired.

Upcoming *PaLRaP* Deadlines

Manuscript submissions	
(research, practice, commentary, and feature articles)	*Ongoing*
Fall 2015 consideration	*August 1, 2015*
News item submissions	*Ongoing*
Fall 2015 consideration	*September 1, 2015*

ORCID iDs

Open Journal System (OJS), the platform upon which *PaLRaP* operates, now accepts ORCID iDs. ORCID iDs are a recent innovation in scholarly communication and research management. Authors can create a unique and persistent identification number for themselves and use it to distinguish their research outputs (e.g., articles, grants, books, etc.) from those with the same or similar names. In addition, an ORCID iD can help others find your work and give you proper credit for it. In some cases, where a publisher or funding agency has integrated ORCID iDs into their submission or application process, using your ORCID iD will save you time when completing online submissions.

Several major publishers and funding agencies have integrated ORCID iDs into their submission processes. Publishers include Nature, Springer, Wiley, and *PaLRaP*'s own publisher, the University Library System, University

of Pittsburgh. Granting agencies that use ORCID include the Wellcome Trust, the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

You can now include your ORCID iD when you submit a manuscript to *PaLRaP*. Be sure to enter it as a URL as is indicated in the instructions—

http://orcid.org/xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx.

If you enter the ID number alone, this will result in an error message.

What if you do not have an ORCID iD yet? Then please consider getting one to help you keep track and get credit for the research, publishing, and grant-writing that you do. You can register for your free ID on the ORCID website (orcid.org).

Image courtesy of ORCID iD™

How We COPE

Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice is not just about the mechanics of editorial work—copyediting, layout, and technology. We are an active journal, engaged and (we hope) engaging, one that aims to publish the best professional literature we can.

What happens, though, when we encounter an issue that we have not dealt with before? This happened twice during the course of preparing this issue.

In the first instance, we were confronted with a reader's concern over the content of an article published in an earlier issue. What are the procedures for handling a concern over contributorship or a possible omission in acknowledging the work of others? We investigated the matter, of course, talking with both the authors and the person registering the concern. We also consulted with our publisher for advice on how to address the matter within the issue. This led us to COPE, the Committee of Publication Ethics (publicationethics.org), a forum for editors and publishers of peer-reviewed journals. COPE fosters discussion about publication ethics and also advises editors on how to handle situations in which there is a perception or an occurrence of research or publication misconduct.

COPE provides a searchable database of cases where the committee has reviewed the details and issued an opinion. Examining the opinions available, *PaLRaP*'s co-editors learned that this is not an uncommon issue in scholarly journal publishing. We learned, too, that the recommended practice is to

- investigate the matter and listen to all sides of the issue;
- offer the complainant the opportunity to express his or her concern in a letter to the editor;
- offer the authors the opportunity to respond to the complainant's concern;
- publish the complainant's letter to the editor along with the authors' response in an upcoming issue of the journal.

COPE is very clear that where there is a dispute over contributorship and no evidence of wrong-doing, the original article should not be redacted, amended, or removed. The letter to the editor serves the purpose of addressing the issue.

In the second instance, when reviewing a manuscript, one of our peer reviewers asked whether the study presented—one involving human subjects—had been evaluated by the institutional review board (IRB) at the authors' home institution. COPE, among other resources, came to the rescue again as we were able to search its database to determine whether we needed to include a question about IRB status in our author submission guidelines. The short answer: Yes, we should ask whether a work has been evaluated by an institutional review board at the author's institution if the work represents behavioral science research involving humans.

COPE has developed a "Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors."[1] Having made ourselves familiar with this code, we were pleased to see that instinctively as journal editors (and with the assistance of our publisher), we had been acting according to the code.

This does not mean we know everything that editors need to know. Truth be told, we are always learning and trying to determine ways to improve *PaLRaP.* Thankfully, this is a hallmark of good editorial practice according to COPE:

1.2—strive to meet the needs of readers and authors;

1.3—strive to constantly improve [the] journal;

1.8—always be willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions, and apologies when needed.

As co-editors, we feel that we are constantly striving to make *PaLRaP* better, accurate, scholarly, and engaging, a journal that readers look forward to reading and authors are eager to submit manuscripts to.

Read and write

Toward that end, we would like to remind you to let us know your thoughts about what you read—the good, the bad, and the awkwardly edited paragraph or unsatisfyingly presented argument. To do so, you can use the *post a comment* feature (located in the right-hand sidebar) on the abstract page for each article.

You are required to have at least a reader-level account with *PaLRaP* in order to sign in and comment. The co-editors vet all comments for appropriateness and make them live on the *PaLRaP* site as soon as possible.

You can also use a new-to-us but more traditional way of your sharing your insights about something you read—by submitting a letter to the editor. A letter to the editor gives you more room to work with when complimenting or critiquing something you read. You should aim to be concise, stay on target, and be professional in tone. Your letters are most definitely welcome, and we are glad to consider them for inclusion in a future issue.

In this issue

In our current issue, we present one research article, three practice articles, one feature *(PaLRaP*'s second), one letter to the editor *(PaLRaP*'s first), and our regular "Noteworthy" section, a collection of news briefs from Pennsylvania libraries.

In the research article, Marilyn Harhai and Janice Krueger, professors of library science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, chronicle their efforts to assess student learning and achievement in the Master of Science in Library Science program at Clarion. These efforts included developing pre- and post-test survey instruments that align with learning outcomes, the curriculum, and professional competencies. They present results of these tests administered as part of specific courses taught in the program beginning in fall 2012.

In the first practice article, Joseph Fennewald of Penn State University Libraries describes creation of the Tombros and McWhirter Knowledge Commons at the University Park campus and its use by library patrons. To our

knowledge, this is the first article appearing in a scholarly journal about the Knowledge Commons, a space that has attracted attention from and fostered inspiration among a number of libraries, in- and outside the Commonwealth.

In our second practice article, Sheila Kasperek and Bethany Messersmith relate the experience of the Mansfield University community regarding a false claim on social media of a book being banned from the library. In our third practice article, David Brennan informs about and analyzes the outcomes of a collection assessment and development project carried out to determine journal and monograph holdings in the health sciences at Penn State University Libraries and its relevance to library users and liaison librarians at Penn State Hershey.

Finally, our feature for this issue relates the experiences of two participants in the Penn State University Libraries' Diversity Residency Program for early-career librarians. Dean Barbara I. Dewey provides an overview of the program.

Picture this

Since *PaLRaP* has a new co-editor, we thought it might be nice for our readers to connect a name with a face and show you a photo of Anne Behler. However, in order to do that, we realized that "veteran" co-editors Tom Reinsfelder and John Barnett also needed to come out from behind the *PaLRaP* editorial curtain and show their faces as well. So here we are, *PaLRaP*'s three current co-editors.

Are we being vain? No, not at all. We just wanted to put our best faces forward so that when you communicate with us through e-mail or in person at library events and conferences throughout the year, you will know us a little better. In return, we hope to get to know you better by reading your professional insights and hearing your ideas for *PaLRaP*'s ongoing evolution into a go-to source for Pennsylvania library scholarship.

PaLRaP co-editors; from left to right, Tom Reinsfelder, Anne Behler, and John Barnett

Looking toward fall (already?!)

The fall issue of *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice* (volume 3, number 2) is slated for publication in October-November 2015.

You can submit an article to *PaLRaP* at any time—today, overnight, tomorrow, next week, or next month. However, for priority consideration for the fall issue, please submit your research or practice manuscripts,

commentaries, and features by August 1, 2015. This deadline will provide *PaLRaP*'s editorial staff with the time needed to consider your work, send it on to peer review (if required), request revisions, and perform copyediting and layout.

The deadline for news items submitted to the "Noteworthy" section of *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice* is later, September 1, 2015.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *PaLRaP* as much as our all-volunteer staff enjoyed preparing it. Our aim is to encourage your writing, determine ways to help your work appeal to our audience, and be responsive to reader interests and concerns, all the while maintaining accuracy, integrity, and high intellectual and ethical standards.

Notes

[1] You can find the COPE "Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors" here: http://publicationethics.org/files/Code_of_conduct_for_journal_editors_Mar11.pdf.