Introducing the Journal of Graduate Librarianship

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Introducing the *Journal of Graduate Librarianship*

Wendy Doucette and Jill Cirasella

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Graduate Librarianship*, the first professional journal dedicated solely to graduate librarianship! This issue is the culmination of a two-year effort where we discovered, often the hard way, what goes into starting an academic journal.

**HOW WE GOT HERE AND WHERE WE’RE GOING**

Separately, we—Wendy Doucette and Jill Cirasella—each had the idea to create a journal of graduate librarianship. Once we connected, in the lead-up to the 2022 Transforming Libraries for Graduate Students (TLGS) conference, we agreed to partner to turn our lowercase idea into a title-case reality: the *Journal of Graduate Librarianship*. (It is worth noting that, although Wendy is the organizer of the TLGS conference, TLGS and *JGL* have no formal relationship to each other.) Wendy, craving deep engagement with each submission and never shy of running headlong into the unknown, became Editor-in-Chief. Jill, coming off three years as chair of the editorial board of the *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* and enthusiastic about journal policies, workflows, and getting things just so, became Managing Editor.

We spent a long time thinking about the spirit of the journal, not only what we wanted it to contain but also what we hoped it would embody: a point of exchange for shared, honest, open practice by and for other professionals doing the same type of work. We were adamant about setting a collegial tone for the journal, designing it as a place where practitioners of graduate librarianship could speak about themselves in the first person and share everything from empirical and theoretical research to personal recommendations and opinions. As stated in our *Purpose and Scope*, “while *JGL* provides a podium for the
dissemination of research, it also offers a large, welcoming kitchen table, where the graduate librarian community can gather, share, and learn.”

To that end, we have a variety of ways in which practitioners can share their knowledge with each other:

- **Scholarly Articles** (3,000–6,000 words) are peer reviewed and report on empirical research, present case studies, and/or explore theory or existing scholarly literature.
- **Sharing Our Stories** (1,500–3,000 words) are editor reviewed and report on personal experiences such as initiatives, successes, lessons learned, reflections, epiphanies, and professional development.
- **Practitioner Panel** collects and compiles short responses to questions posed to the community through social media and email lists. This section is a key component of *JGL*’s “welcoming kitchen table,” offering graduate librarians an immediate opportunity to contribute to the conversation.

You can learn more about the particulars of each type of content in our [Section Policies](#). We actively seek your comments and ideas to grow this journal together.

We anticipate one annual issue with the sections listed above, as well as one “Conference Round-up” issue—i.e., an issue featuring summaries of relevant conference presentations from the previous year, written by the presenters themselves. (“Relevant” at *JGL* always and only means “dedicated exclusively to matters pertaining to graduate librarianship.” If it’s about work with graduate students, graduate faculty, and/or graduate programs, or the professional development of graduate librarians, we’re interested.) Stay tuned for the “Conference Round-up” call in Spring 2024!

**WHO WE ARE**

Although Wendy and Jill are *JGL*’s co-founders and day-to-day managers, *JGL* functions with the support of an extended team. From the outset, we received guidance from Ashley Sergiadis, Digital Scholarship Librarian at East Tennessee State University, *JGL*’s institutional host.

When we were ready to build a larger team, the graduate librarian community responded, applying in inspiring numbers to serve as peer reviewers and editorial board members. We are fortunate to now have a robust roster of peer reviewers and four editorial board members committed to assisting us with policy matters, practical advice, and outreach:
• Dr. Kathy Anders, Texas A&M University
• Adelia Grabowsky, Auburn University
• Brian Quinn, Texas Tech University
• Dr. Elaine Thornton, University of Utah

We are regularly and capably aided by our Practitioner Panel Editor, Dr. Corinne Bishop (University of Central Florida), and Communications Coordinator, Sarah Thompson (The University of Tennessee Health Science Center).

Of course, this issue would not be possible without our authors. We sincerely appreciate their contributions as well as the patience and understanding they exhibited while we worked out the kinks of our platform, learned to use desktop publishing tools, and sorted out all the pieces of the publishing puzzle.

We also thank our peer reviewers, whose careful comments helped to shape this issue’s three scholarly articles into their final form. Additionally, we are grateful to Kai Beavers (Research Assistant, CUNY Graduate Center) for providing essential assistance in readying the issue for publication.

On behalf of the entire team, we welcome you to explore this first issue of JGL, and to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, or X (formerly Twitter).

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