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Publishing During the Pandemic: Strengthening Relationships, Removing Barriers, Reaching New Heights

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Publishing During the Pandemic:

Strengthening Relationships

Removing Barriers

Reaching New Heights

Sherry Buchanan, MFA, MSLIS
Maika Yeigh, Ed.D.

Abstract

Library-supported open access journal publishing has been flourishing amidst the pandemic, but we recognize that our work is rapidly evolving and will never be “business as usual” as we extend our services to meet new needs and challenges. PSU Library has always been empathetic and service-oriented, but now we find ourselves going the extra mile for editors and authors whose lives have been disrupted – **doing whatever it takes to maintain sustainable publishing and highlight social justice**. Our focus is directly aimed at helping the underdogs and fostering change, reasserting our relationship with readers by working with authors and editors directly. Portland State University offers an **online publishing platform and support for five journals and has uploaded content for two conferences during the pandemic**. **Readership is at an all-time high across the board**. Three out of five journals released issues in May 2020, including our undergraduate journal that had been on hiatus since 2017. The other two hosted journals are publishing in summer and fall, along with a **special issue from Northwest Journal of Teacher Education** set for fall 2020, solely devoted to **manuscripts that take a critical, social justice stance on teacher education at this time of the COVID-19 crisis**. **This presentation provides readership data for all PSU-published journals, highlights events/articles, and offers strategies that the Library and editors can use to serve as scaffolding and net for authors and each other in a time of unprecedented adversity.**

10K

DOWNLOADS

Monthly journal usage reaches all-time high, with nearly 10,000 articles downloaded across five journals hosted in PDXScholar, the campus repository for Portland State University.



- ***Anthós*** is a student-run, reviewed, open-access undergraduate journal published by the University Honors College of Portland State University. Our aim is to provide a venue for the excellent undergraduate scholarly work that is produced at Portland State University.
- ***Communications in Information Literacy (CIL)*** is a peer-reviewed, independently published, and open access journal devoted to advancing research, theory, and practice in the area of information literacy in higher education.
- ***The Hatfield Graduate Journal of Public Affairs (HGJPA)*** is a graduate student-led academic journal of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government in the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University. The journal features faculty, practitioner, and graduate student submissions that explore a range of public affairs issues.
- ***The PSU McNair Scholars Online Journal (McNair)*** is a peer-reviewed undergraduate journal published by the PSU McNair Scholars Program. The journal is primarily a venue for McNair scholars to publish their research papers, but it is also open to all students.
- ***The Northwest Journal of Teacher Education (NWJTE)*** is the peer-reviewed journal of the Northwest Association of Teacher Educators. *NWJTE* publishes original contributions from teacher educators, teachers, teacher candidates, and other stakeholders interested in the exchange of ideas related to teacher education. *NWJTE* offers thoughtful, innovative, and practical ideas grounded in research. At the heart, *NWJTE* is written *for* educators *by* educators.

Journals Published by Portland State University

Readership Data – Downloads

- [All Journals](#)
- [Anthós](#)
- [Communications in Information Literacy \(CIL\)](#)
- [The Hatfield Graduate Journal of Public Affairs \(HGJPA\)](#)
- [The Northwest Journal of Teacher Education \(NWJTE\)](#)
- [PSU McNair Scholars Online Journal \(McNair\)](#)

Highlights: Published During the Pandemic

Faculty Research

[Dreaming Revolutionary Futures: Critical Race's Centrality to Ending White Supremacy](#)

-Sofia Y. Leung and Jorge R. López-McKnight, CIL

[COVID-19, Equity, and the Future of Education: A Conversation Between Teacher Candidates](#)

-Shayna Glenn, Kadee Kall, and Kate Ruebenson, NWJTE

[Pandemic & Education: A Conversation Between Teacher Candidates](#)

-Jake Carlsen, Eric Jensen, and Anna Krytenberg, NWJTE

[Responding to Student Teachers' Fears: How We're Adjusting during the COVID-19 Shutdowns](#)

-Jeremy Delamarter and Mary Ewart, NWJTE

Student Research

[White 'Alliahs': The Creation & Perpetuation of the 'Wise Indian' Trope](#)

-Jessica Mehta, McNair Journal

[A Secret Plague: How the Decline of Mental Health During the Great Plague Created an Undetected Epidemic](#)

-Erin A. Carty, Young Historians Conference

[Arab Student Experiences of Inclusivity and Exclusivity at Portland State University and Off-Campus Locations](#)

-Leila Piazza, Anthós

[Comparative Analysis & Strategy: Policy Instruments for Renewable Energy in Oregon](#)

-Gabrielle A. Brown, HGJPA

Highlights: Popular Works During the Pandemic

[#BlackLivesMatter: This Generation's Civil Rights Movement](#)

- *Tanike Siscoe, University Honors College Thesis*

Over 11,000 downloads since 2013

[Africans and African Americans: Conflicts, Stereotypes and Grudges](#)

- *Foday Darboe, McNair Journal*

Over 45,000 all-time downloads since 2013

[Searching the Silence: Finding Black Women's Resistance to Slavery in Antebellum U.S. History](#)

- *Loucynda Jensen, McNair Journal*

Over 4500 downloads since 2013

[Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\) as a Structure for Culturally Responsive Practice](#)

- *Krista James, NWJTE*

Almost 900 downloads since 2018

Division of Duties: Before the Pandemic

Editor Responsibilities

- Meet self-determined deadlines
- Recruit submissions and advertise
- Detect plagiarism, ensure quality control
- Peer review, accept/reject submissions
- Work with authors to revise submissions
- Arrange layout for print journal, if applicable
- Inform us when editors leave/join
- Inform us when issue is ready to publish

Library-provided Support

- Provide administrative accounts for editors
- Remove permissions when editors leave
- Provide training/support for the platform
- Open/close issues (if needed)
- Add persistent links/DOIs to articles
- Troubleshoot system errors

During the pandemic, it became clear that editors needed more support.

Division of Duties: During the Pandemic

Library-provided Support

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BEFORE

AFTER

All Prior Support Services PLUS:

- Video and Telephone Consultations
- Uploading files on behalf of editors
- Making corrections to PDFs in Acrobat
- More metadata and website assistance
- New ways to recruit authors/reviewers
- Expanded training documentation

More Support

MAKING EXCEPTIONS

PUSHING BOUNDARIES

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

- Served as change agent, supporting transformation
- Provided more outreach, offering more guidance
- Released [Call for Journal Hosting Proposals](#) - Received three expressions of interest
- Generated the issue theme/title for McNair - [Accessibility, Racism, and Social Justice: Original Contributions in Research](#)
- Configured issues and uploaded articles for Anthós
- Updated post-publication typos, omissions, errors
- Ensured works cited met CrossRef standards
- Uploaded journal cover art and editorial board names
- Recommended marketing (listservs, social media)
- Shared/analyzed usage dashboards with editors
- Suggested and made discipline/keyword updates
- Identified and recommended anti-plagiarism resources
- Explored and provided print publishing options
- Ensured practices and policies meet DOAJ criteria

JOURNAL HOSTING



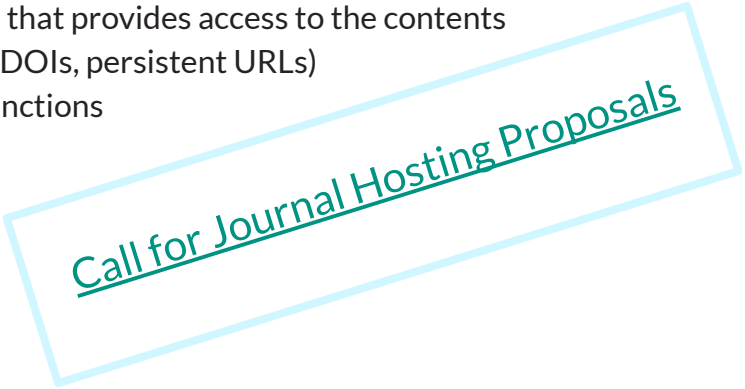
[HTTPS://PDXSCHOLAR.LIBRARY.PDX.EDU](https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu)

Call for New Journal Hosting Proposals

During the pandemic, we put out a [Call for Journal Hosting Proposals](#), and we received three responses.

Any faculty, staff, student, department, center, or college associated with Portland State University can request journal hosting. Student-run journals must have actively involved PSU faculty. **Services provided by PSU Library:**

- Publication hosting – development of a public-facing site that provides access to the contents
- Creation and management of standard identifiers (ISSN, DOIs, persistent URLs)
- Web-based software to manage editorial/peer-review functions
- Copyright and licensing planning and support
- Usage statistics for editors and contributors
- Unlimited author/editor support
- Search engine optimization
- Long-term preservation
- Backfile upload



[Call for Journal Hosting Proposals](#)

The editorial board is responsible for management of the publication – finding editorial staff, enlisting reviewers, marketing the publication, graphic design (after initial set-up), typesetting/layout, printing, etc.

Forthcoming Special Issue

*Northwest Journal of
Teacher Education*

Call for a Special Issue

Theme:

A Critical Reimagination of
Teacher Education for
Sustainable Social Justice in a
Time of Crisis.

Special Issue Submissions

*Northwest Journal of
Teacher Education*

- 15 submissions
- Three Indigenous authors
- Western states & Canada:
Alaska, Alberta, Oregon & Washington
- Range of genres, including
autoethnographies, reflective essays,
& photo inquiries
- Strong focus on the social-emotional
health of youth and educators, as well
as the mental and emotional strain
caused by the pandemic

NWJTE: Changing the Scholarly Record

- PSU began hosting *The Northwest Journal of Teacher Education* in 2017; the journal's mission includes preparing and supporting teachers toward a democratic education.
- Editors stance on leadership: If we want to have diverse voices in higher education, we need to let those voices in through the publishing process (ie: authors need publications for tenure).
- Editors support emerging scholars by using a non-traditional coaching process. Rarely are manuscripts rejected outright; instead, the writing framework is broken down so it is accessible for new authors.
- Editors may spend a year or more supporting authors to get a manuscript prepared for publication. This includes pre-reading manuscripts and providing steps for authors to take *prior* to the manuscript being sent out for review.

NWJTE: Building Community

The *NWJTE* is published twice per year, and works with authors year-round.

- Editors work to demystify the publishing process for authors who have submitted articles.
- Editors try to build community through personal communication with authors in a few ways.
 - Respond quickly to emails from authors
 - Provide email updates to authors about manuscript status, the revision and editing processes, and publication timeframes
 - Send group updates to issue authors as a way to celebrate the publication as a group
- Editors reach out to published authors and invite them to peer-review incoming manuscripts (ie: many recent authors are reviewing Special Issue submissions)

Conferences Published (Online)

YOUNG HISTORIANS CONFERENCE

High school students from Challenge History classes submit research papers to a jury selected by the History Department.

These papers are scored and up to 40 are accepted to be presented at the Conference, which is held in Spring at PSU.

The Young Historians Conference is a powerful and authentic experience for young History scholars in our high schools, celebrating their scholarship, and providing a professional forum for dialog and feedback. Students tell us that this conference is one of the most significant ways they connect to PSU and to a college experience, while still in high school.

OHSU-PSU SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

The annual Conference is open to all OHSU and PSU students both in and outside the School of Public Health. Projects are posters or papers summarizing public health research, promoting and protecting communities, focusing on improving everything that impacts health – from housing, education and income to community design, transportation and our environment. Community planners, environmentalists, nurses, social workers, biostatisticians, epidemiologists, lawyers, teachers, nutritionists, policymakers, and others participate in this research showcase.

Assessing Success

- What are the reasons for and objectives of the publication?
 - What is your mission statement?
 - What are your goals?
 - What drives publishing?
 - What content is most heavily featured?
 - How is the publication evolving?
- Who reads the publication?
 - Do you have a persona or user segment in mind?
 - Who is not an audience member?
 - What can you learn from readership data?
- How and when do you assess success?
 - Is your readership expanding/increasing?
 - Do you have a feedback mechanism?
 - How might you survey your users?

Conclusion: What Have We Learned?

Library Publishing in the Future

Publishers and editors have **opportunities:**

- to forge connections with marginalized authors
- to support authors whose voices would be unheard
- to co-create the scholarly record and usher change
- to push the boundaries of traditional publishing
- to be more open and embrace diversity
- to reassert our relationship with readers

Want to know more, reach out, or add your insights? We welcome your thoughts, questions, and comments!

[Complete our Brief Survey](#)

Presenter Biographies

Sherry Buchanan, MFA, MSLIS, oversees journals and conferences hosted by PDXScholar, the campus repository, at Portland State University Library. She has twenty years of experience within universities, having worked in the classroom, and for digital initiatives, library technologies, circulation, course reserves, interlibrary loan, reference, and statewide chat. Sherry's research interests include discovery, accessibility, usability, open access, content strategy, universal design, and data-driven collaborative decision-making.

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Maika J. Yeigh, EdD, is an assistant professor in the Curriculum and Instruction Department who teaches secondary education, mainly serving students in the Graduate Teacher Education Program (GTEP). Her research interests include supporting teachers during their induction years and how a stance of teacher inquiry is displayed in the initial years of teaching, as well as how strong clinical partnerships support developing educators. In addition, she is a licensed K-12 reading specialist, with an interest in humane literacy practices that provide adolescent learners with choice and voice in their learning. She has taught in the Portland metro area for over 20 years.

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