MLA HYPOTHESIS
Journal of the Research Caucus

Welcome back!

The phrase most suitable for our inaugural issue on a new platform is 'deceptively simple.' It could equally be called 'what *have* we done,' or 'we're not in Kansas anymore.' Because we most decidedly are not. We've been on quite a journey of discovery as we worked with Ted Polley at the Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) to set up *Hypothesis* (and note, its subtitle is now Journal of the MLA Research **Caucus**) in this new virtual space.

Thank you to the IUPUI University Library, which provides the OJS (Open Journal Systems) platform, and to Ted, who has been there for a million questions, and whose sage advice and experience has been so crucial to this lengthy process. To members of the MLA Research Caucus, whose enthusiastic support has been what kept us going through thick and thin and etc., thank you as well!

You're invited to check out our new About the Journal page to see what we've got going on: readily available content and instructions, indexing information (did you know when you publish with us, you'll be indexed in CINAHL and other databases?), and our brand new, shiny submission portal. Options here now include several new types of content, which we're excited to tell you about below.

Perhaps most exciting is that we'll now have the ability to provide DOIs for journal content and spread the word about our articles using the individual PDFs generated by publication. Up to this point, finding a particular piece meant downloading the entire publication, and scanning through its pages - no more! We will soon be working to import all back issues to this new platform, as well. Following publication of this issue, we'll be seeking additional participation in putting together issues, including peer review, copyedit, and promotional activities to encourage growth, increased use, and more content submissions.

Introducing the inaugural Hypothesis: Failure! Column

Conceptualized and edited by Heather Holmes, this is content well overdue. Years past, an outgoing MLA President called for sharing our stumbles and bumbles, based on the ancient notion that those who fail to learn about the past are doomed to repeat it. Failure is not failure in the hide-your-head and never emerge sense. After you get over the initial despair and frustration, it's informative, educational, sometimes (eventually, wincingly) humorous - in a word, important to our authentic sharing in an ever-evolving profession. If you have failures (and lessons learned) you'd like to share, we would love to know about it.

Contents of this issue

The goals of the **Hypothesis: Failure!** column are described above, and in **Heather Holmes' introduction**, but it's hard to say too much about this column. Mention to others of this new effort finds an immediate response of 'it's about time!' and agreement about the importance of sharing our lessons learned. Our first column submission, **Library renovation: From setbacks to success**, is an account from Elaine Wells (SUNY Optometry) of lessons learned amid a library renovation - something that many of us can relate to, and learn from.

As we do every year, we recognize the wonderful research undertaken and presented by MLA members at the annual meeting. The **MLA 2019 Research Caucus Awards** include research on: emerging roles for academic, medical librarians; burnout amongst health information professional; nursing librarianship and distance education; wellness behaviors amongst health sciences librarians; a systematic review of institutional repositories; and the use of e-books by medical students and residents.

For the first time, we have recognized the creators of research-related training with the new **MLA 2019 Research Caucus Research Training Quality Awards**. Offerings were evaluated for quality of content, topical currency, and fit to the audience. We awarded three trainings this year - one on the use of metrics in research evaluation, another on community health assessment tools, and a third on the involvement of libraries/librarians in offering research data services to their communities.

Angela Spencer (Saint Louis University), Elizabeth Mamo (Rochester Regional Health), and Brooke Billman (College of American Pathologists) have authored the **Benchmarking study of hospital libraries**, updating our previous understanding of hospital closures in a volatile healthcare environment, and including information about staffing, services, and budgets.

Research Roadmap Part 2: Disseminating your research, authored by Katherine Akers (Wayne State University), Kris Alpi (Oregon Health & Science University), Jon Eldredge (University of New Mexico), Heather Holmes (Medical University of South Carolina), Kim Powell (Emory University), and Margaret Hoogland (University of Toledo) concludes this 2-part publication with advice about sharing your work at conferences and the process of research writing and submitting that work for publication.

It's been a year of quality training efforts! Margaret Hoogland shared her thoughts about the IMLS-funded Research Training Institute experience in **A year in review: MLA RTI Fellow reflection**. Look for reflections authored by other RTI Fellows in future issues.

In summary

As editors of *Hypothesis: The Journal of MLA's Research Caucus*, we hope you enjoy this issue and join us on this journey: submit, read, and share what you find in our pages.

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