

## Column Announcement

Holmes

### Coming soon! *Hypothesis*: Failure

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Wait, what? A hypothesis failure? What is that? And why would I want to tell anyone that I failed, let alone publish it in a journal with substantial readership? I don't want my colleagues, and especially not my boss, to know that my project didn't work so no way would I want to tell the world.

*Hypothesis* is asking you to tell the world!

From the time we are children we know that we learn by trial and error. Sometimes those errors are pretty big, and even life changing. The key is that *we've learned* and we know that if we're in that position again we should try a different approach so as to avoid another (or at least the same) mistake. You'd only walk through fire once, right?

In our professional lives we tend to be more guarded; we do a really good job of celebrating our successes, but we tend to hide our failures or things that we didn't do so well. Then the question "*How will we learn if we don't share our failures?*" arises. It is a question that I've asked many times, and also one that I've vowed to find a way for others to answer. This column has been several years in the making, but it is finally coming to fruition and many thanks to *Hypothesis* co-editors Carol Perryman and Erin Foster, for providing a space for us to learn from projects that didn't go so well.

So what does this mean? Beginning in 2019, *Hypothesis* will have a regular column dedicated to failures, lessons learned, or mistakes that mattered. Submissions will be expected to describe the research, including the methodology and objectives, provide a narrative about the experience, and lessons learned or what would be changed if given the opportunity to repeat it. Writing style should be casual but informative. Submissions will also be subject to peer review.

We all have plenty to learn from each other regardless of the type of library that we're in, so it is our hope that this column will be filled with submissions from all types of libraries. Our colleagues from the American Library Association, Special Library Association, Academic & College Research Libraries, Canadian Health Libraries Association, and any others are encouraged to submit for publication.

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