

Introducing the New and Emerging Researchers Submission Category

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Fresh insights from new researchers

I am delighted to introduce *Hypothesis* readers to the nascent New and Emerging Researchers category. This new category reflects the importance to the profession of encouraging and supporting librarians to engage in research and to submit their work for publication. Going forward, *Hypothesis* welcomes submissions from new and emerging researchers with the intent to promote greater visibility and recognition to those at the outset of their research careers.

There is never a better time to do research in librarianship than now. By this I don't mean that this point in history is better than any other, only that it is no less good. In my own experience, I have sometimes been under the impression that all the important questions have been asked and answered. Or that these important questions were best answered by someone else, some more qualified expert in method x or y or with population z. It can be daunting to come up with a focused question that feels new or original enough to pursue, let alone to design a study to answer such a question. In our field, librarians spend a significant amount of our work day encouraging students, clinicians, and researchers to search the literature for previous findings to inform not only their decisions but also their next projects. It's only natural that some would conclude that everything that's worth studying has already been studied, and that research should be left to those with more experience or more training. It's all too easy to talk ourselves out of undertaking a new research project in these circumstances. I am therefore all the more impressed at the number of health sciences librarians who continue to ask new research questions, design studies to investigate them, and report on their findings and experiences. I am delighted that *Hypothesis* is showcasing emerging researchers, who along with their day to day professional work, carved out the time to undertake research in LIS and to disseminate it.

In this issue

In this issue of *Hypothesis* are three papers authored by new emerging researchers in library and information studies. Mary Margaret Thomas from University of Iowa reports on original research using a qualitative approach that she developed as a participant at the MLA Research Training Institute. The pilot study contributes to what is known on the impact of mental health first aid training for librarians in academic health sciences and public libraries.

Christine Neilson from University of Manitoba conducted a content analysis on librarians' relationship to knowledge synthesis work. Her findings provide valuable insight to a perspective typically omitted from publications about knowledge synthesis work and complementary to reports on health researchers' needs and behaviours with respect to this popular set of research methods.

Devon Olson and Sara B. Westall present a report on their work at the University of North Dakota of a needs assessment of users' awareness about open access during OA week by way of a quiz competition. The paper provides an excellent description of an awareness campaign for open access as well as an assessment tool for evaluating its success and for identifying areas of further instruction.

I hope these articles not only inform your thinking about health sciences librarianship, but

inspire you in your own investigations, whether as a novice or a more experienced researcher, to ask questions and apply new methods to continue to inform the field.