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Time Has Come Today

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Acknowledgements
This issue launches during a difficult time for our nation. The consequences of current events are sure to have a lasting effect on our democracy, but at this time, they remain unknown. While we have crossed over to a different sort of governing and a different sort of truth, we have also stepped into the possibility of immense growth and change. We know, as burgeoning and current librarians, archivists, and information scientists, that accuracy is important, information is valuable, and knowledge is power. These principles rest at the heart of our work, and so this point in time provides us with the opportunity to shake things up, to do things differently, to be more inclusive, and to get involved.

The authors in this, the SRJ’s 16th issue, ask important questions to support this involvement: How can dynamic collaborations between researchers and practitioners move our field forward? How can public librarians and our allies most effectively advocate for libraries and, therefore, our field? How can we as archivists broaden the diversity of archives, ensuring all people are represented?

I had the great good fortune to have taken the Political Activism class with our invited contributor, Patrick Sweeney, two semesters ago. Sweeney’s book, Winning Elections and Influencing Politicians for Library Funding, provided invaluable guidance on how to fight (and win!) politically for library funding. Sweeney’s new book Before the Ballot: Building Political Support for Library Funding was released January 4th. Here we present a chapter to help prepare us for what will certainly be an exciting 2020 political season.

Former SRJ editor Stacy Andell contributes our first published evidence summary, guidelines for which were designed by Canada’s Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice journal. Andell evaluates a bibliometric study done by Yu-Wei Chang, who examined the characteristics of articles co-authored by researchers and practitioners in LIS journals. A likely, but up until this point, rare pairing.

Author Autumn Wetli rounds the journal out with an extensive literature review on the diversity of archives. She highlights that it is not only who is represented in archives, but how they are represented, how they are selected for inclusion, from theoretical to practical process. This review calls for a method that is “focused on the promotion of social justice, is aware of its flaws and biases, while still being hopeful and forward-looking” (Wetli, 2019).

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