



## Editors Column

What do rubber chickens, physical literacy, and libraries have in common? How can you communicate with patrons in real time at a self-serve library? When is failure a good thing? These are just a few of the fantastic questions that come up in this year's conference issue of *PNLA Quarterly*. It is always a pleasure to solicit articles from our presenters at the August PNLA conference each year. As editors, we attend the conference but rarely are we able to show up at every program on our wish list. Seeing the creative articles that come out of the original presentations just a few months later is truly a delight and a reminder that we are so fortunate to have many engaged, bright professionals in the region.

This issue reflects the diversity of PNLA's membership with articles from regional library practitioners in Idaho, Washington, Alberta, and Montana, as well as contributions from Oregon and even Minnesota. Minnesota? As I look outside my office window right now toward mounds of Montana snow, Minnesota seems a very appropriate sister member of PNLA! Kellian Clink, our Minnesota contributor to this issue, often attends PNLA conferences. I have had multiple intriguing conversations with her at our conferences over the years while walking the banks of the Spokane, enjoying an Alaskan boat ride, or in some other impossibly beautiful setting. Kellian's article speaks to academic libraries' concerns with student retention; something increasingly central to our mission whether at Mankato State or Montana State.

Our Oregon authors, Joe Marquez and Annie Downey of Reed College in Portland, are also welcome contributors. Portland area libraries were a tremendous presence at the Vancouver conference, both in terms of attendance and content, and we appreciate Oregon librarians' continued interest in PNLA. Marquez and Downey remind us of the importance of putting usability at the heart of library service design, an important concept no matter what type of library you serve.

Our regional contributors provide fresh ideas and better ways of approaching many of our shared challenges. Nick Madsen's article cracks the nut of sustainable 3-D printing services. Leslie Boyter and Jennifer Fenton help us understand how to manage change on a personal level so that we can be both proactive and resilient in these turbulent times. With turbulence comes opportunity, and Elizabeth Brown talks us through creating a plan for staff development in our libraries in the midst of so many options. If you are intrigued by the connection between rubber chickens and libraries, read the article by Jenny Cofell, Barbara Longair, and Lisa Weekes to discover how a public library can partner with community organizations to help promote wellness. Sam Wallin's article will give you a vivid and surprisingly attractive picture of a self-serve library as an innovative way to expand services while stretching dollars. And should you be afraid of failing when you implement any of these new ideas, Deana Brown and Elizabeth Ramsey will convince you of the essential role of failure in an environment of rapid change. Such a rich bounty of ideas!

In addition you'll find your *PQ* editors contributing conference-born content to this issue. Leila Sterman's article about open access journal publishing explores the expanding boundaries of scholarly publication and the new world we are helping this journal enter. "Reading the Region," a program and conference issue column authored by Jan Zauha each year, gathers together award winning books from around the PNLA region (and Oregon as well this year) in order to reflect the richness of our intellectual content for purposes of collection development, readers' advisory, and cultural understanding.

In store for you in this issue, then, is a reprise of some of the programs you may have attended, or a chance to "attend" after the fact by reading and considering the ideas in a new format. We hope you enjoy these offerings. Notice that at the end of each article we provide contact information for the authors. We encourage you to contact them with questions, just as you would have done as a member of the audience in Vancouver last summer.

Happy reading!  
Jan and Leila