

College & Research Libraries Editorial Board

ALA Annual Meeting

June 26, 2016

8:30 am - 10:00 am

HIL Orlando – Florida Ballroom 5-6

Members present: Penny Beile, Laura Bonella, John Budd, David Free (ex officio), Don Gilstrap, Wendi Kaspar, Lori Mestre, Lori Mestre (outgoing), Mark Shelton, Sarah Steiner

Guests present: Emily Ford

1. Announcements and Additions to the Agenda
2. Welcome from the Editor and Thanks to Outgoing Board Members
Lori Mestre attended the first part of the meeting and was acknowledged for her service.
3. C&RL Report to the Publications Coordinating Committee
The report to PCC was shared with the editorial board prior to the meeting. Committee members discussed the acceptance rate, indicating support for current rate of 28% and desire to maintain a rate between 25 and 30%.
4. C&RL Social Media Program Update
Details of the social media program were included in the report to PCC and shared with the editorial board prior to the meeting. Steiner spoke about how facebook traffic is up and twitter is remaining steady.
5. Discussion of Editorial Board Composition
There were no concerns about the composition of the editorial board. In addition, the editor cited a preference for endorsing new members of the board who had an established relationship with C&RL, such as serving as a peer reviewer. There was additional discussions about the pool of peer reviewers, including identifying expertise in emerging areas and having broad representation.
6. Book Review Update
Shelton reported that his goal to reduce the time between publication of the book and publication of the review is moving forward, and he is working with publishers to identify the books he will receive for reviews.
7. Review of Instructions to Authors and Mentoring Authors
The Board discussed the instructions for authors, agreeing that there were areas that were vague and that additional detail would likely result in better submissions. Specific areas of clarification may include voice (1st vs 3rd person), anonymization of the

submission (anonymize the organization as well as the authorship). Providing more guidance in the scripted messages (about next steps) as well as making use of ALA's libguide subscription to create more robust examples and guidance. In addition, Kaspar suggested that highlighting some relevant topics in the editorial would educate authors and readers both; the first such editorial will likely address editorial workflow and timeline (in response to a number of questions from authors).

The need for mentoring came up; the editorial board was very comfortable with the role that they (and the reviewers) play in providing constructive feedback to authors. Ford offered the option of open peer review as a way to provide a "developmental review" wherein a reviewer might work with an author. That is just one model; Ford said that there are many (and referred the Board to a presentation on open peer review that afternoon) and they could be adapted according to the needs of C&RL. There was concern over maintaining the high standard of objectivity that blind review necessitates conflicting and how having reviewers "coach" authors might undermine that. Kaspar will contact Ford and discuss at more length.

8. Guidelines and Best Practices for Reviewers

In addressing the need for additional information and support for authors, Kaspar asked if a similar resource was needed for Reviewers. The Board overwhelmingly agreed that it would be helpful and would help with the consistency of the review feedback.

Following that train of thought, a couple of members asked if it would be possible to have a way to upload their review documents into the system (with track changes) in order to give the authors more detailed feedback. Kaspar will investigate. Follow-up: This function has now been turned on in the editorial system.

9. Midwinter 2016 – Confirmation of Virtual Meeting

The Midwinter 2017 editorial board meeting will be a virtual meeting that will take place in December 2016. Kaspar will confirm time and date later this summer.

10. Open data discussion

The question surfaced about hosting datasets on which C&RL articles are based. Free offered that the system has the technical capability to host a multitude of file types to support data. A discussion on whether the Board (or Executive Council) should adopt a policy requiring that accepted papers also make their datasets available. After some debate about whether to adopt such a mandate and who had the authority to do so, the decision was to make the capability known to authors and strongly encourage. After seeing the response, such a requirement may be considered at a later date.

A concern was raised about IRB compliance and whether the journal has a responsibility to verify that the data meet this standard. The Board at large acknowledged this issue and raised additional questions around role of the journal and whether that kind of review would infringe on academic freedom, what kind of expertise would be needed to do it, and whether the editorial staff could/should ask for IRB verification. It was also acknowledged that many librarians are either unfamiliar with IRB or receive a waiver – which led to a discussion about mentoring authors and potential programming options.

11. Professional Development for Authors

Steiner had been investigating putting together a panel for ACRL 2017 with editors, board members and reviewers to address “How to Get Published in C&RL.” There was some difficulty in lining up all the panel members; however, Beile suggested that this concept would work very well in a media format online. An experienced editor, reviewer or researcher could be invited to record a 30 minute video on a topic for which they could speak with expertise. These would be recorded videos available to authors and researchers as they needed them. Some suggested topics were: navigating IRB in library research; preserving anonymity in the review process; collaborative projects and authorship; project planning with publication in mind. Steiner and Kaspar will continue discussion on logistics and work with Editorial Board to identify presenters.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.