Editorial

THIS special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship* was guest-edited by members of the CAPAL Research and Scholarship Committee. It is intended to foster a greater understanding of the research environment of academic librarians in Canada, as well as to continue to articulate a scholarly foundation to inform the committee's own work and the work of others. To this end, this issue contains diverse theoretical, qualitative, and quantitative works from Canadian academic librarians that address how, why, where, and when research is taking place within academic librarianship. They critically consider the relationship between our research and scholarly work, and the broader political and historical entities of our work as academic librarians.

The prevalence and prominence of the role of research in the responsibilities of academic librarians within Canadian academic institutions varies greatly. However, there is a broad acknowledgement that making time and creating space for conducting academic research requires balancing one's scholarly work with other professional commitments and functions. Two articles provide a greater understanding of how time and supports are shaping the research and scholarly work of librarians. Based on a series of interviews with academic librarians, Karen P. Nicholson gives a critical qualitative analysis of the effect of neoliberal conceptions of time on librarians' self-management of their research work. This research suggests that "at least some Canadian academic librarians are being held accountable to ambiguous performance standards and impracticable timescapes with regard to scholarship. Further, Maha Kumaran's qualitative and quantitative survey data suggests that notwithstanding the consistent availability of dedicated time, peers, and funding, academic librarians lack systematic and comprehensive support for their research work.

Two articles provide insight into the perceptions of research and scholarship by academic librarians. Maureen Babb surveyed librarian and non-librarian faculty members to elicit a better understanding of the similarities and differences in how these groups perceive librarians conducting research and scholarship. While

research by librarians was generally perceived positively, the study highlighted the need for stronger advocacy and better promotion of scholarship by librarians. Lise Doucette and Kristin Hoffmann's visual research method provides a unique look at the perceptions of the research process by librarians who occupy a unique role as researchers and as practitioners. The findings provide a greater understanding of how librarians perceive and balance their roles as both researchers and practitioners in new and productive ways.

Two articles explore the necessity and importance of carefully and critically examining the ways in which the methods and tools of our research have been generated within frameworks of colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism. These articles provide readers with reflections and interventions to help guide them toward more socially just and socially informed research practices. In "Research and Indigenous Librarianship in Canada," Deborah Lee challenges common approaches to research with Indigenous communities. She provides important guidance to librarians in adopting more collaborative and respectful alternatives to our current approaches, emphasizing "that humility, reciprocity, accountability, and long-term commitment are critical values required when conducting research with Indigenous peoples and communities." Taking a more theoretical tack, Michael Dudley proposes a "discursive-transactional paradigm." He argues that this approach will uncover the foundations and assumptions in the application and assessment of Knowledge Organization Systems, with a view to reflecting and recovering historically marginalized forms of knowledge.

The three book reviews in this special issue have strong synergy with its research-related articles. Under consideration are *The Self as Subject: Autoethnographic Research into Identity, Culture, and Academic Librarianship*, edited by Anne-Marie Deitering, Robert Schroeder, and Richard Stoddart; *Being Evidence Based in Library and Information Practice*, edited by Denise Koufogiannakis and Alison Brett; and *Research Methods for Librarians and Educators: Practical Applications in Formal and Informal Learning Environments*, edited by Ruth Small and Marcia Mardis. Our book reviewers provide useful evaluations of works aimed at supporting and ameliorating librarians' scholarship.

As a whole, the articles in this issue serve a dual purpose: they provide a glimpse into the context in which academic librarians are engaging in research and scholarship, and they provide insights into ways in which research and scholarship may be strengthened and promoted within Canadian academic librarianship. Within an uncertain, evolving, and sometimes disparate research and scholarly environment, many questions linger. Nevertheless, academic librarians demonstrate a commitment to advancing scholarship within their profession. In guest-editing this issue, the CAPAL Research and Scholarship Committee hopes to encourage

engagement both with the richness of research by Canadian academic librarians and with the critical issues in academic libraries that need to be tackled in order to further the gains we have made. From creating new support models for research, to resisting the intrusion of neoliberal logic, to ensuring that our research, methods, systems, and tools properly adhere to principles of justice for Indigenous peoples and communities, these articles will open meaningful conversations, generate more questions, and provide inspiration and direction for future research.

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