Editorial

Introducing *C&RL's* Managing Editors

Michelle Demeter

With the arrival of autumn and our new members of the *College & Research Libraries* Editorial Board, this feels like a fitting time to pause and reflect on the past year, as well as what lies ahead. In my inaugural editorial last September, I asked readers to bear with me as I took time to gather information and better understand how the journal was functioning. As I became more familiar with the journal's processes and idiosyncrasies, I identified a few key opportunities for immediate improvement, which the Board actively addressed throughout the year. These efforts led to a key structural recommendation to appoint two Managing Editors.

It is therefore my great pleasure to introduce and welcome *C&RL*'s newly appointed Managing Editors: Tessa Withorn and Matty Johnson. In their roles, Tessa and Matty will assist me in assigning incoming submissions, working with peer reviewers to ensure timely evaluations of manuscripts, and helping to facilitate editorial workflows and projects. Both candidates bring a range of research and editorial experience, as well as strong project management skills. Their accomplishments include published books and journal articles, equipping them with critical knowledge and understanding of diverse publishing formats and processes. I am confident their passion and drive will bring fresh perspectives to improving our workflows and operations as we work with the Editorial Board to move *C&RL* in new directions.

Tessa is the Science Librarian and an Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville, where she also serves as the Data Services Coordinator, focusing on research data management and open science. Although she is new to the *C&RL* Editorial Board, Tessa brings a range of experience as an author and a reviewer from other publications, which will provide a refreshing perspective on the journal. Tessa proposed ways that *C&RL* might consider and eventually incorporate various models of open scholarship, including open peer review, open data, and equitable publishing practices. During her interview, Tessa spoke extensively about exploring ways to increase the visibility of academic librarianship outside of the profession by seeking platforms for sharing our work as professionals through a form of public scholarship.

Matty is the Director of Research and Instruction at the University of South Florida, has served as *C&RL*'s Social Media Editor for the past three years, and will continue in this role with the added responsibilities of Managing Editor. Matty brings extensive methodological expertise due to their doctoral studies and personal research. Matty is eager to explore the motivations librarians have for publishing and how they impact the publishing field, as well as working toward improving transparency around *C&RL*'s publishing timelines and processes. Like Tessa, Matty is interested in exploring open peer review models, which aligns with goals shared by many Editorial Board members.

The decision to recruit managing editors grew out of my early observations as Editor-Designate, when I began to more fully appreciate the volume of work managed by former

Editor Kristen Totleben. It became clear that there was a need to develop a more sustainable model to ensure the journal's long-term success. Once I officially began my tenure as Editor, trying to keep pace with all of the journal's responsibilities felt like digging my way out of an avalanche with a plastic teaspoon. For context, *College & Research Libraries* received 295 submissions in 2025, accepting 68 for a 23% acceptance rate. To efficiently shepherd so many submissions through the system, I raised the issue with the Editorial Board, who supported expanding *C&RL*'s editorial structure.

In early Spring 2026, a working group identified responsibilities for a new editorial role and developed a position description. Then, throughout the summer, a search committee convened to interview candidates and select a Managing Editor. Given the strength of the candidate pool and the amount of work at hand, the committee decided to appoint two Managing Editors. I would like to thank Editorial Board members Adrian Ho, Teresa Schultz, and Megan Hodge for their contributions in successfully completing this project, as well as David Free, our ACRL liaison and Editor-in-Chief of *C&RL News*/Senior Communications and Membership Strategist, for promoting the role and coordinating the appointment process.

The appointment of Managing Editors is the most recent and most visible change implemented by the Editorial Board this past year, but it is only one of many changes underway within the journal's editorial leadership. *C&RL*'s Board largely functions as an advisory body, and this past year, members identified and addressed several areas for improvement. Now meeting monthly during the fall and spring semesters, the Editorial Board has more time to discuss and advance important projects. For instance, the Board's Peer Review Working Group offered numerous recommendations that have led to drafts of peer review guidelines and a revised review form, while also reopening conversations regarding the development of an open peer-review model. I look forward to working with Tessa, Matty, and the Editorial Board to bring these initiatives (and more) to fruition in the coming years.

Thus, while spring is traditionally celebrated as a season of renewal, this fall brings a crisp wind of transformation, signaling a fresh chapter and direction for *C&RL*. I look forward to building on the momentum of my first year as I onboard *C&RL*'s new editors and implement workflows that incorporate their expertise and experience. With our Managing Editors in place alongside a dedicated Editorial Board, the journal is well positioned to make meaningful progress on our existing and emerging initiatives.