

Shaping a Collaborative Information Future

EDITOR'S NOTE

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The latest issue of our journal brings together a wide range of perspectives and experiences that share creative and coalition-building frameworks and projects that will serve all librarians, information professionals, and memory workers as we navigate a season of profound transformation. By seeking articles to deeper alignment in practices, process, and ideological underpinnings, our call for papers was an attempt to meet the moment and provide hope (and strategy!) for all memory workers trying to meet the moment. We are thrilled to share the work of the authors in this issue who exceeded all expectations for the kind of work that will be inspiring and generative for all those facing multifaceted and complex challenges now and in the future.

The issue opens with the conversation between Paul Jaeger, Jason Baron, and Diana Marsh, *Beyond Schools and Libraries: Trump Administration Information Policies in Archives, Museums, and Galleries* which outlines the shared pressures libraries, archives, galleries, and museums are right now as well as suggestions for shared strategies. As if responding to Jason Baron's deep concern over the preservation of federal data, Tanya Torres and Zackary Baquet document the heroic data rescue and preservation efforts undertaken by wrongfully terminated USAID employees. Their article, *Where is 60 years of data, information, and knowledge one year after USAID was fed "into the wood chipper"?* comprehensively explains the theory, expertise, and human labor behind the quiet but coordinated efforts to protect vital data. Wendy Chmielewski's examination of the work and legacy of Ellen Starr Brinton reminds us of the importance of each heritage worker in times of crisis and times of peace. It can be hard to maintain

The white paper about Library Patron Privacy by Catherine Ferri, Lucie Daignault, and Samuel Lim provides an overview of existing law and policy in terms of library patron privacy and artificial intelligence. In order for libraries to maintain the trust of their communities, privacy protection is more important and more complex than ever in the age of AI. This piece is a nod to our future issue where we will dive in-depth into political and ethical concerns of emerging technology and libraries and heritage institutions.

In John Mack Freeman's *The Politicization Antibody Effect*, he discusses the importance of relationships, institutional knowledge and community connections, his research reaffirms the critical role that "deep community embeddedness" plays in smaller towns and libraries.

In Paul T. Jaeger's article *Not Defeated, or Attacks on Literacy are Attacks on Liberty: Identifying and Confronting the Political, Legal, and Technological Changes Promoting and Sustaining the Censorship Movement*, he provides a stirring call to action. He identifies the aims of the larger

political forces shaping and how those engaged in active censorship will not discriminate between types of education, knowledge, and memory institutions and as such makes a stirring case for increased collaboration across professional domains.

The Political Threats of Vanishing Culture and The Need to Protect Future Memory by Michael Menna and Lila Bailey offers all memory workers and our institutions the kind of practical but values-driven framework that will allow our shared work to not only meet the moment, but to evolve and thrive well into the future. In closing the issue with this piece, we hope that our readers will be inspired and heartened by organizations like The Internet Archive that are working tirelessly to protect and empower memory and information professionals.

Each article and whitepaper within this issue offers the reader an opportunity to envision what a collaborative information future might look like in reality. The tools, projects, frameworks, and perspectives we are able to foreground in this issue are of critical importance as libraries, heritage, and memory institutions navigate polycrisis and sweeping social change.