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Introduction

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Introduction

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Editor-in-Chief, Issue #46

With the hire of a new library dean in 2014, the Cal Poly Humboldt Library embarked on a path of creativity and innovation. This transformation led to an invigoration of community efforts, including:

- The development of an educational summer program titled L4Humboldt to bring together the campus and the community in shared learning experiences. The 2023 program had nearly five hundred participants from the campus and our community.
- The launch of the Press at Cal Poly Humboldt, which now annually publishes over five hundred works of faculty and student authors as well as over one hundred works from community authors and nonprofits.
- The fulfillment of a new sustainability librarian position whose efforts connect the library, campus, and community on impactful works of social justice and environmental stewardship.
- A growing capacity in special collections for the ingest and protection of community digital records as well as the development of a program with the press and discovery services to create historical publications promoting university and community collaborative initiatives.
- Tours to local schools, events on voter education and book-banning topics, and interactions with local schools and nonprofits.
- The transformation of the children's literature collection with new resources and an improved environment for campus and community families.
- The launch of the Discovery Humboldt project, bringing over fifty million Google Maps views to places and resources around Humboldt County.
- A collaboration with students in the computer science department to develop innovative solutions to informational challenges affecting the community.

These robust outreach efforts have surprised many longtime patrons, who have conceptions of libraries as campus-only centers. However, the view of a campus as independent of its community has never been anything but an illusion. To connect with our communities is to connect our students to real-world opportunities. To uplift our communities is to uplift the places where our students, staff, and faculty live. To sustain our communities is to sustain the environment, society, and politics upon which our campuses stand. To support our communities is to support our future students and advocates. In fact, why do centers for higher education even exist except for the benefit of our communities?

Libraries are frequently viewed through historical perspectives as passively providing information resources to students and faculty, but today's most innovative college and university libraries have become so much more. When the editorial board issued the call for projects for the Humboldt Journal of Social Relations, the librarians of the Cal Poly Humboldt Library jumped at the opportunity to demonstrate this new reality through the lens of community efforts. Our librarian editorial team assembled and edited some of the best of what libraries have been doing so that these under-celebrated community efforts could reach the wider audience they deserve. Thank you to the editorial board for embracing our vision and allowing us to achieve this goal.

Our library editorial team would like to applaud the amazing community efforts of the authors of the seven articles in this journal. Only a little over half of all who inquired or submitted proposals were invited to submit articles, and only half of those made it through the grueling editorial and peer-review process to have their papers published here. To those who did not make it into the publication, we encourage you to continue your work and submit your articles to other journals. You have excellent community projects that deserve to be celebrated by a wider audience.

To those librarians who provided their free time and expertise to assist with peer reviews, our editorial team is
forever grateful. Your dedicated work exemplifies why librarians are some of the most collaborative, innovative, giving, and impactful professionals on the planet.

To those librarians who worked on the editorial team… I bet you did not realize what you had gotten yourself into. This journal was arduous work and yet you persevered and created a journal that is worthy of your efforts. For all our library’s passion for connecting with our community, this journal is itself a part of that effort: an honoring of community efforts for the edification of academic and community audiences. Keep up the amazing work and congratulations on what you have accomplished.

And to our readers… I hope you enjoy what has been published here and are inspired to tackle issues beyond your own library walls. And if you want collaborators in that work, reach out to your fellow librarians. I guarantee you will find an ambitious cohort eager to change the world for the better.