

Finding Joy in OER Outreach

Letter from the Columns Editor, Elizabeth Batte

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Introducing Columns Editor, Elizabeth Batte

Elizabeth Batte has been working within the OER community as an academic librarian since 2018. They began their career at Nicholls State University where they served as Library Director and OER Coordinator. They are now the Outreach and Strategic Initiatives Librarian at the University of Mississippi. Elizabeth is currently a doctoral student at the University of Louisiana Lafayette studying higher education leadership. They have a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Mississippi and a master's in library and information science from Louisiana State University. Elizabeth's research has focused on OER usage and best practices in outreach, burnout among academic library leadership, and impacts of policies in higher education on employees.

Letter From the Columns Editor

A column section in an academic journal is not the most common practice. However, given the ever-evolving nature of higher education and open educational resources, the column section is a place to bring forth more conversational topics in a

peer-reviewed format. The tone for the columns will most often be less technical and not full of jargon that what will be found in the articles. The goal is to keep the columns conversational in nature, but also to help ensure that the conversations happening in the columns are accessible and understood by those even outside of the higher education or open educational resources communities.

As editor for this section, my desire for the content for the columns are for the topics to remain varied, widespread across higher education, and from diverse voices in the open educational community. This section can be a place for contributors to introduce new pedagogical uses for OER; critique current practices in the open access community within higher education; highlight personal, institutional, or regional accomplishments; and so much more. In general, no topic is off-limits, however, it is not intended for case studies or original research.

For the first issue of JOERHE, I chose two columns that both reflect on outreach between academic libraries and faculty focused on increasing OER usage and creation on their campus. I am an academic librarian, but this is not why I chose these two for the first issue. One focuses on how a group of academic librarians teamed up together to share the load of their

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outreach efforts to faculty. Given the past couple of years and the widespread burnout in higher education, I thought this was a good column to serve as a reminder to create joy in our work but also to not always feel like we must take on everything by ourselves. The other column is an overview of the author's dissertation research into faculty perceptions of open and affordable educational resources, as well as their personal experiences as a librarian working with OER. When doing any form of outreach, it is important to understand perceptions within the community you are working with.

I look forward to the conversations that are sparked within the columns section. If you have questions or want to pitch ideas, please feel free to reach out to me.

Note: 'Letters from the Editors' are not peer-reviewed and reflect the individual opinions of the editor(s).