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Notes from the Editors

Anne Hays

College of Staten Island, CUNY

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Notes from the Editors

Co-editor Angel Falcon and I are very pleased to welcome you to the 1st issue of the 23rd volume of *Urban Library Journal*.

While this issue is not themed, themes naturally emerge, and this issue is no exception. Pionke's article, "Beyond ADA Compliance: The Library as a Place for All," addresses the ways in which public and academic libraries fail to meet the needs of the functionally diverse. Pionke suggests practical solutions for libraries to better meet the ALA's mission to reach all users and meet the needs of functionally diverse patrons, namely, through universal design. Chancellor's article, "Libraries as Pivotal Community Spaces in Times of Crisis," discusses the ways in which urban libraries have become safe havens for patrons during heightened civil unrest, specifically during Black Lives Matter protests in Ferguson and Baltimore. In these examples, the urban library performs its civic duty by not maintaining neutrality, but by actively creating a safe space for the community. Libraries, as spaces, can be a welcoming or unwelcoming place for marginalized communities. Borchard and Magnuson address ways in which urban libraries can serve users who can otherwise not afford high-cost academic materials required for classes in their article "Library Leadership in Open Educational Resource Adoption and Affordable Learning Initiatives." This article begins with an original study regarding student use of textbooks and ends with strategic recommendations for OER implementation in urban libraries. It's probably a stretch to suggest these articles traverse the same terrain, but the connection I see has to do with urban libraries making intentional efforts to provide access to materials, information, and physical space to those who are most marginalized by our society at large.

I'd also like to take this time to announce a few changes to *Urban Library Journal's* editorial policies and procedures. The biggest change regards our submission and publication process. We are following the footsteps of many eminent open access journals and moving to a rolling submission/publication process. Practically speaking, this means that you, the reader, can submit pieces when they are ready year-round. It also means that this issue is not complete yet! We will be publishing articles as they become ready for Volume 23, Issue 1 until we close the issue at the end of this summer.

Stay tuned for additional content. In the meantime, enjoy the current issue.

– Anne Hays