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Notes from the Editor

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Notes from the Editor

By Derek Stadler

I am very pleased to welcome you to the second issue of the 26th volume of *Urban Library Journal*. The second, or fall issue, of each volume is typically a collection of proceedings from the LACUNY Institute, held annually in spring. However, in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Institute was not held in 2020. Therefore, this issue will not contain proceedings. Instead, it is a special issue devoted to urban libraries and the pandemic. All articles underwent peer-review. Authors could consider any aspect of how urban libraries were affected by and responded to the pandemic, including but not limited to:

- the transition to fully remote services
- decisions on closing and reopening
- training staff and faculty in light of the digital divide
- psychological trauma
- xenophobia
- social distancing
- labor and employment concerns
- the urban dilemma of physical space
- reflections on the legacy of AIDS
- archiving the pandemic
- the value of information literacy in times of crisis
- open access and the public good in urban environments

Upon the arrival of COVID-19, libraries shut their doors and later partially re-opened in various phases. Raymond Pun's "Understanding the Roles of Public Libraries and Digital Exclusion through Critical Race Theory: An Exploratory Study of People of Color in California Affected by the Digital Divide and the Pandemic" is a qualitative study of the lived experiences of people of color who used their public libraries prior to and during the pandemic. In particular, the article uses critical race theory to illustrate patrons' stories and experiences, exploring the barriers that exist when using public libraries' technology resources. It also considers how public libraries can re-imagine technology services and resources to mitigate restrictions posed by the digital divide. Another article in this issue focuses on the transition to fully remote services whereby libraries changed their service model from in-person and online services to online only.

No doubt, urban college students face financial constraints as textbook prices continue to soar. Jeffrey Delgado's "Weeding into Outreach: A Case Study using an Urban Community College's Reserve Collection" is a case study of how a community college held a giveaway event after a weeding project of a reserve collection upon which students were allowed to keep copies of textbooks. While it is a bit out of scope with the theme of this issue, it makes for an interesting read as college libraries slowly reopen following the pandemic and decisions regarding weeding and other library undertakings have to be made.

Special thanks to Louise Fluk, Collection Development Librarian at LaGuardia Community College, and M. Anne O'Reilly, Electronic Resources Librarian at LaGuardia Community College, for their copyediting help.

Enjoy!

Derek Stadler

Editor, *Urban Library Journal*