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Bringing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to the Student Research Journal

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Keywords

DEI, diversity, equity, inclusion

About Author

Amber has studied human development and applied linguistics, earning a B.S. from Brigham Young University and an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Utah, respectively. In her personal and professional life, she has developed skills in teaching, editing, and playing with young children. Passey anticipates graduating from SJSU's MLIS program in December 2023, after which she plans to focus her work on Children's Librarianship.

An important movement in the LIS field has been the increased attention to issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The iSchool here at San José State University recently concluded a year-long project showcasing DEI groups, needs, experiences, and resources across four newsletters and four webinars. Another example of the growing importance of DEI can be found on ALA's website which showcases news and resources for DEI in librarianship. This issue of the Student Research Journal features research and policies in the DEI realm affecting the SRJ, our editors, our authors, and our readership.

This academic year I had the incredible opportunity to work on the Reading Nation Waterfall grant project led by iSchool director Dr. Anthony Chow. Dr. Chow's invited contribution highlights the efforts of this project to bring books to Native American children while increasing their families' engagement with their tribal libraries.

Beginning the academic year at the SRJ, we adopted a Gender Neutral Language Policy that was researched and proposed by our Managing Editor, Ben Brown. He shares what he learned and how we have implemented this policy and then provides a framework for other organizations to consider how gender neutral language may increase their inclusivity.

Another project completed this year aims to make the journal more accessible to fellow LIS professionals. Copy editor, Mia Lewis, consolidated several years of research from former editors regarding adding a social media coordinator. After writing a proposal justifying the need for the position and the benefits it would offer the journal in reaching the goals outlined in the strategic plan, the proposal was put before the faculty advisory board who approved the position and allowed one credit of INFO 298 to be earned each semester.

Though this issue is brief, it represents unseen work done by our Editorial Team, authors, faculty advisors, and our outreach efforts. Since last June, our Managing Editor, Ben Brown, has written twenty-eight consolidated referee reports (CRRS) which contain the feedback from our editors to authors on their submitted manuscripts. In the 22-23 academic year our Editorial Team reviewed and provided feedback on twenty-two manuscripts.

As the Editor-In-Chief and the Managing Editor, we also had the opportunity to be the first graduate students to present at the monthly LIS Pedagogy Chat sponsored by faculty at Simmons University where we shared our work at the *Student Research Journal* with the attendees. Additionally, Ben and I represented the *SRJ* by presenting the special

projects we completed at the College of Professional and Global Education Online Student Conference and each received an Outstanding Student Presentation Award. Through these efforts we, as a team, have grown in our professional skills and preparation to complete our degrees at San José State University.

We are excited to welcome Odin Halvorson and Marc Hoffeditz as the new EIC and ME for AY 2023-24. This is the first time the leadership team consists of two male students. We wish them much success as they embark on their journey.

Acknowledgments

The Managing Editor, Ben Brown, has been instrumental in coordinating editors with submissions, creating reports, and providing insights on the work of the *SRJ*. A special thank you as well to the Editorial Team who were committed to providing an excellent and timely peer review experience for authors.

Our faculty advisor, Dr. Anthony Bernier, has mentored me in the role of Editor-In-Chief and has spent many hours strengthening the Editorial Team's understanding of and skills in LIS scholarship, academic discourse, and the peer review process. I am deeply grateful for his guidance.

We also express appreciation for the Faculty Advisory Board led by iSchool Director, Dr. Anthony Chow, and Associate Director, Dr. Linda Main for their continued and enthusiastic support of the *Student Research Journal*. A special thank you to Dr. Norman Mooradian for his consultation on a manuscript about artificial intelligence. Additionally, we acknowledge the role of the Alumni Advisory Group in helping the *SRJ* Editorial Team identify trends in the field, needs of professionals, and ways the *Journal* can support graduate students as they join the LIS profession.

With the completion of several special projects by Editorial Team members and support from the Faculty Advisory Board, we look forward to the growth of the *SRJ* as an accessible channel for graduate students to join the scholarly conversation.