



# *LCHS* Report to the Library History Round Table

February 2022

*LCHS* is a financially healthy publication which continues to develop quality content. JSTOR usage increased around 10% in 2021 with 4,995 total pageviews/downloads, compared to 4,508 in 2020. Print mailings increased by seven continuing a gradual upward trend.

In 2021 we were excited to finalize an expanded issue of *LCHS* dedicated to the contributions of Black Female Librarians. We thank Dr. Nicole Cooke for her leadership and the LHRT Executive Committee for their generous financial support which made the expanded issue possible. The issue contains contributions from many authors new to *LCHS* and we anticipate it will reach many new readers.

We also adopted a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement and Action Plan](#) which will guide our future activities. We will begin implementing it in earnest shortly after a new Co-Editor is named, as we hope the appointee will provide consultation toward fulfilling the plan's aims.

Challenges (or opportunities) ahead include identifying a new Co-Editor to replace Eric Novotny, the migration of *LCHS* from JSTOR to the Scholarly Publishing Collective, and continuing our progress in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We welcome continuing dialog as we build on the journal's strong foundation.

***LCHS* editors, Eric Novotny and Bernadette Lear**

## *LCHS* Co-Editor Search and Transition

The Chair of the Library History Round Table appointed a search committee chaired by Emily Spunaugle and including representation from the LHRT Executive Committee, LHRT membership, and the *LCHS* Editorial Board. Co-Editor Bernadette A. Lear and *LCHS* Book Review Editor Brett Spencer are also serving on the committee. A call for interested applicants was widely distributed. It is expected that the LHRT Executive Committee will announce an appointment in Summer 2022. The new Co-editor will work alongside the outgoing Co-Editor, Eric Novotny, until Spring 2023 and the remaining Co-editor, Bernadette A. Lear. Ms. Lear intends to seek re-appointment in 2022 and 2024 to continue journal production and assist in on-boarding the new Co-Editor.

## Publishing Platform

In 2022, *LCHS* is migrating to a new platform, the Scholarly Publishing Collective. While issues previously published on JSTOR will remain available there, going forward all issues of the journal will appear on [our Scholarly Publishing Collective site](#). While the loss of the respected and visible JSTOR brand is not welcome, JSTOR forced university presses' hands by discontinuing its hosting program for current scholarship. We are pleased to see that the Scholarly Publishing Collective site offers some intriguing enhancements. We expect authors and readers will like added features such as data on page views and article downloads, and links to Google Scholar, all of which are embedded in each article's page. The *LCHS* Editors are communicating additional desired improvements, although, much like JSTOR, there will be aspects of the new platform that won't be under our control.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The *LCHS* Editorial Board approved a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement and Action Plan](#) in November 2021. It will be published in *LCHS* 6.1 and has been added to the journal's webpage. Importantly, it includes specific actions and metrics to judge our progress. The Editors thank the Writing Group which included Dr. Nicole Cooke, Dr. Dominique Daniel, and Michele Fenton.

In 2020/2021, the Editors took the following actions to improve DEI in *LCHS*:

- Expanded *LCHS*'s Editorial Board to include an additional African American member and an Indigenous/Native member. See Board members list.
- Partnered with Dr. Nicole A. Cooke to publish a special issue (v. 6, n. 1) on Black Female Librarians.
- Recruited at least 1 BIPOC reviewer for every submission about those populations.
- For all submissions about BIPOC and international populations, authors were strongly encouraged to center BIPOC or international perspectives in their narratives by including primary materials produced by those populations.
- Co-Editor Bernadette A. Lear is actively contributing to the Library Publishing Coalition's Ethical Framework for Library Publishing Task Force. The task force is updating and improving a guidance document that includes significant accessibility and DEI components.

## Journal Impact

*LCHS*'s reputation is growing and the Editors continue to work toward the journal's inclusion in relevant indexes and ranking lists. Early in 2021, we learned that *LCHS* has been included in [ERIH-PLUS](#), a selective list of Humanities and Social Sciences journals established by the European Science Foundation and maintained by the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills. Now that we have successfully published five full volumes, Penn State Press has submitted *LCHS* for consideration in Scopus and Web of Science. We are awaiting the results of our application.

Cindy Mediavilla and Christopher Proctor with LHRT's Assessment and Advocacy Committee compiled two reports on *LCHS*'s impact. All peer reviewed articles published by *LCHS* from 2017-2021 were

searched in Google Scholar. Overall, 31% of the articles published in *LCHS* have been cited. Removing the most recent issues, the figure climbs to 37.84%. This compares favorably with history and the humanities more broadly. A 2018 analysis of citation data reported that nearly 80% of articles in literature went uncited, with over 60% of history articles also going uncited.<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, 22.9% of *LCHS* citations are in sources outside library and information science.

The Assessment group also looked at author affiliation with LHRT. Reviewing membership lists, they determined that 56% of *LCHS* article authors are not currently LHRT members. A great majority (66%) of the book reviewers are also not LHRT members. Non-LIS authors came from many disciplines including art, history, criminal justice, humanities, and social science.

#### [Journal Metrics Report on ALA Connect](#)

#### [LCHS Authors and Reviewers Analysis on ALA Connect](#)

This data suggests that LHRT, through *LCHS*, is not only contributing to library history but also expanding beyond LIS to have cross- and interdisciplinary impacts.

### *LCHS* Content

**Volume 5.2** was published in Fall 2021 and is available via [JSTOR](#) and the [Scholarly Publishing Collective](#). In addition to three research articles, the issue contained a special section with seven essays on library historians and library history research during COVID-19, and eleven book reviews – remarkable content given the pandemic’s impact on research.

**Volume 6.1** is in final production for publication in Spring 2022. It features ten essays on Black Female Librarians and an Introduction by the Guest Editor, Nicole A. Cooke:

- Naomi Willie Pollard Dobson: A Pioneering Black Librarian, by LaVerne Gray
- Catherine A. Latimer: Librarian of the Harlem Renaissance, by Rhonda Evans
- The First Lady: Celebrating the Library Career of Louise Ferguson Bolden, by Carla Sarratt
- Dr. Virginia Lacy Jones: The Blueprint for Relentless Advocacy for Black Librarianship, by Aisha Johnson
- Clara Stanton Jones: Stirring the Waters in the Detroit Public Library, by Renate L. Chancellor
- Jean Blackwell Hutson: Black Women’s Leadership in Librarianship and Archives, by Kellee E. Warren
- Effie Lee Morris: Advocate for Children, Advocate for Self-Care, by Shawna Sherman
- “We’re So Glad You’re Here, and We’re So Glad You’re Black”: Esther Walls’ Life and Work in Libraries and Literacy Organizations, by Jennifer Burek Pierce
- Barbara Williams Jenkins: Profiles of a Servant Library Leader and Chronicles of Educating, by Sheila A. Stuckey

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<sup>1</sup> Simon Baker, "Uncited Research - Analysis suggests big differences among disciplines in the volume of scholarship that fails to garner a citation." *Inside Higher Ed*, April 19, 2018. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/04/19/study-examines-research-never-receives-citation>

- Mary F. Lenox: Library and Information Science Connector and Poet of Justice, by Sarah A. Buchanan

We are thrilled with how *LCHS* is progressing and we hope LHRT members are, too!

Eric Novotny and Bernadette A. Lear, Editors