Editor's Welcome Article

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Welcome to the first issue of ACRL-LA's open-access journal! For this inaugural issue we asked librarians and scholars from around the country – and, of course, from around Louisiana – to write on issues and topics they felt were important to librarianship. The resulting articles cover a variety of topics, from a review of academic library literature to a case study of an eco-friendly special collections renovation to open-source software with library applications, and even an article on how to get published!

These articles are not strictly research-oriented, and though the purpose of *Codex* is to promote and share research related to academic libraries and librarians, *Codex* should also be viewed as a venue for exploring our concepts of academic libraries and librarianship. Just as open-access journals are revolutionizing the publishing process and giving information-seekers access to quality, scholarly information – which before was only available to those who could afford access – we hope that *Codex* can revolutionize how we (and hopefully others) see academic libraries and librarianship; provide access to quality, scholarly information to those seeking research on academic libraries and librarianship; and contribute to the continued successful tradition of open-access journals.

A secondary purpose of *Codex* is to assist authors in getting published. If an author submits an article to *Codex* – even if the article is determined to be inappropriate for the journal – the author will receive feedback regarding the article, where feedback is suggestions for improvements to the article, recommendations for more appropriate venues of publication, or simple observations. We want to encourage first-time writers. That does not mean that every article submitted to *Codex* will be published; it does mean that we want to help authors –

particularly first-time authors – in the best way we can: providing a constructive dialogue. Ultimately, this is what research – in any field – is: a dialogue, a conversation between what's been done and said on a topic *already* and what hasn't been done or said on a topic *yet*. The reference interview is a dialogue, at its simplest: the user has a question, and the librarian can provide an answer – the old call and response of a piece of music.

Codex, too, is a voice in a call and response of research: it will speak, sharing its thoughts and information and data, and this will, in turn, provoke a response from other scholars, writers, librarians, staff, and students, who will, in turn, speak, provoking more responses. In such a way we hope to continue exploring, to gain a better understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and possible evolutions of academic libraries and librarians.

Again, welcome to the first issue of *Codex*!