

# Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene

Guest Editors: John Burgess, Robert D. Montoya, Eira Tansey

As stewards of collective knowledge, librarians, archivists, and educators in the information fields are facing the realities of the Anthropocene, which has the potential for cataclysmic environmental change, with a dawning awareness of its unique implications for their missions and activities. The *Anthropocene* is a proposed designation for an epoch of geological time in which human activity has led to significant and irrevocable changes to the Earth's atmosphere, geology, and biosphere. Some professionals in these fields are focusing new energies on the need for environmentally sustainable practices in their institutions. Some are prioritizing the role of libraries and archives in supporting climate change communication and influencing government policy and public awareness. Others foresee an inevitable unraveling of systems and ponder the role of libraries and archives in a world much different from the one we take for granted. Climate disruption, continued reliance on fossil fuels, toxic waste, deforestation, soil exhaustion, agricultural crisis, depletion of groundwater, loss of biodiversity, mass migration, sea level rise, and extreme weather events are problems that threaten to overwhelm civilization's knowledge infrastructures, and present information institutions with unprecedented challenges.

This special issue of the *Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies* (JCLIS) will serve as a space to explore these challenges and establish directions for future efforts and investigations. We invite proposals from academics, librarians, archivists, activists, museum professionals, and others.

Some suggested topics and questions:

- How can information institutions operate more sustainably?
- How can information scholars and professionals better serve the needs of policy discussions and public awareness with respect to climate change and other threats to the environment?

- How can information institutions support skillsets and technologies that are relevant following systemic unraveling?
- What will information work look like without the infrastructures we take for granted?
- How does information literacy instruction intersect with ecoliteracy?
- How can information professionals support or participate in radical environmental activism?
- What are the implications of climate change for disaster preparedness?
- What role do information workers have in addressing issues of environmental justice? How do such issues of environmental justice relate to other forms of social justice?
- What are the implications of climate change for preservation practices?
- Should we question the wisdom of preserving access to the technological cultural legacy that has led to the current environmental crisis? Why or why not?
- Is there a responsibility to document, as a mode of bearing witness, society's confrontation with the causes of significant environmental problems?
- Given the ideological foundations of libraries and archives in Enlightenment thought, and given that Enlightenment civilization may be leading to its own environmental endpoint, are these ideological foundations called into question? And with what consequences?
- What role do MLIS, MIS, iSchools, and other graduate (and undergraduate) programs have to play in relation to the aforementioned issues?

Deadline for Submission: June 30, 2018

## TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS

JCLIS welcomes the following types of submissions:

- Research Articles (no more than 7,000 words)
- Perspective Essays (no more than 5,000 words)
- Literature Reviews (no more than 7,000 words)
- Interviews (no more than 5,000 words)
- Book or Exhibition Reviews (no more than 1,200 words)

Research articles and literature reviews are subject to peer review by two referees. Perspective essays are subject to peer review by one referee. Interviews and book or exhibition reviews are subject to review by the issue editor(s).

## Contacts

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## THE JOURNAL OF CRITICAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

The mission of the Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies is to serve as a peer-reviewed platform for critical discourse in and around library and information studies from across the disciplines. This includes but is not limited to research on the political economy of information, information institutions such as libraries, archives, and museums, reflections on professional contexts and practices, questioning current paradigms and academic trends, questioning the terms of information science, exploring methodological issues in the context of the field, and otherwise enriching and broadening the scope of library and information studies by applying diverse critical and trans-disciplinary perspectives. Recognizing library and information studies as a diverse, cross-disciplinary field reflective of the scholarly community's diverse range of interests, theories, and methods, JCLIS aims to showcase innovative research that queries and critiques current paradigms in theory and practice through perspectives that originate from across the humanities and social sciences.

Each issue is themed around a particular topic or set of topics, and features a guest editor (or guest editors) who will work with the managing editor to shape the issue's theme and develop an associated call for papers. Issue editors will assist in the shepherding of manuscripts through the review and preparation processes, are encouraged to widely solicit potential contributions, and work with authors in scoping their respective works appropriately.

JCLIS is open access in publication, politics, and philosophy. In a world where paywalls are the norm for access to scholarly research, the Journal recognizes that removal of barriers to accessing information is key to the production and sharing of knowledge. Authors retain copyright of manuscripts published in JCLIS, generally with a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) license. If an article is republished after initially publication in JCLIS, the republished article should indicate that it was first published by JCLIS.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies welcomes submissions from senior and junior faculty, students, activists, and practitioners working in areas of research and practice at the intersection of critical theory and library and information studies.

Authors retain the copyright to material they publish in the JCLIS, but the Journal cannot re-publish material that has previously been published elsewhere. The journal also cannot accept manuscripts that have been simultaneously submitted to another outlet for possible publication.

## CITATION STYLE

JCLIS uses the [Chicago Manual of Style, 16<sup>th</sup> Edition](#) as the official citation style for manuscripts published by the journal. All manuscripts should employ the Notes and Bibliography style (as footnotes with a bibliography), and should conform to the guidelines as described in the Manual.

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Manuscripts are to be submitted through JCLIS' online submission system (<http://libraryjuicepress.com/journals/index.php/jclis>) by **June 30, 2018**. This online submission process requires that manuscripts be submitted in separate stages in order to ensure the anonymity of the review process and to enable appropriate formatting.

- Abstracts (500 words or less) should be submitted in plain text and should not include information identifying the author(s) or their institutional affiliations. With the exception of book reviews, an abstract must accompany all manuscript submissions before they are reviewed for publication.

- The main text of the manuscript must be submitted as a stand-alone file (in Microsoft Word or RTF) without a title page, abstract, page numbers, or other headers or footers. The title, abstract, and author information should be submitted through the submission platform.