



EDITOR'S NOTE

NEW YEAR, NEW CHANGES

WHAT ARE YOUR ASPIRATIONS?



hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something." *Neil Gaiman*

Happy New Year! Unbelievably, January 2019 marks 20 years since I began my first job as a fully credentialed law librarian. Time really does fly when you are having fun, and I have definitely been having fun. Law librarianship is my second career and I know firsthand how scary professional change can be. Ultimately, however, I feel lucky to have found a profession that I continue to love.

Then again, you do not have to switch professions to make a change. What are your professional goals for the new year, or the next five years? What new skills and knowledge do you want to acquire? Do you want to move into a new position, or is it time to start thinking about a retirement plan? Whatever it is, now is a great time for reflection, goal setting, and planning. There is nothing wrong with resolving to get more physically fit in 2019, but you can also resolve to get your professional aspirations in shape at the same time.

I am excited to kick off 2019 with a special issue on accessibility. Librarians focus on helping people find information, hopefully in a way that is most useful to them. Our respective user groups vary by type of institution and mission. However, we likely all have patrons who find it harder to access information for a whole host of reasons, such as older buildings that present mobility challenges and electronic resources whose use is visually driven. And we must address the needs of patrons with mental health issues, who might experience a wide range of

difficulties accessing information. These are only a few examples of the barriers our patrons typically face.

Very soon after I started my first law librarian job, I was tasked with teaching a blind student how to use Lexis and Westlaw using JAWS, a screen reader. It was a very enlightening experience for me because I had never used this type of technology or even thought about how I would describe doing research in an electronic system to someone who cannot see. I don't have perfect solutions to these issues, but that experience continues to influence how I think about web design, teaching electronic resources, and a myriad of other issues. If you have access to screen reader technology, I recommend trying to search an electronic database or website with your screen turned off.

I hope that you find something in this issue that helps you solve a current problem or reimagine how you provide a resource or service to mitigate accessibility barriers. The new year is often a time of change. Create change for yourself through achievable goals and action plans. Create change for your users through improved services and access to resources.

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