Student Journal Forum: from a local event to a Canada-wide movement

Library Publishing Forum 2022
Who we are

Mariya Maistrovskaya
Digital Publishing Librarian
University of Toronto Libraries

Sarah Severson
Digital Projects Librarian
University of Alberta

Institutions involved in organizing SJF2022
What we will talk about today

- **WHY** we started hosting annual Student Journal Forums
- **HOW** the Forums evolved over the past 7 years
- **WHAT** lessons and future directions we identified in the process
Launched in 2015, an annual full or half-day event with catered lunch; presentations mostly by librarians and faculty with invited student speakers + Show & Tell/networking sessions for editors.

**Regional expansion! U of T + York**

SJF2020 co-organized by U of T and York and open to all student editors in Toronto; featured a half-day bootcamp for editors.

**National + Online + Student CFP**

SJF2022 continued as online and nation-wide, was co-organized by librarians from 10 Canadian universities; first CFP for student speakers.
SJF was born at U of T in 2015

- In 2015 U of T had about 60 student journals; 15 hosted by the Libraries
- Library services were not well known or connected: OJS hosting, print archiving, catalogue inclusion, copyright consultations...
- Other supports for student journals via student unions, departments, Hart House Literary and Library Committee...
Student Journal Forum goals

- Connect student journal teams with services available at the U of T Libraries and beyond
- Share publishing best practices, skills and tips
- Facilitate networking between student editors

Student Journal Forum website
SJFs 2015-2019

- On site full or half day event with food, for U of T students
- Presentations by librarian and faculty speakers, with some student editors invited for a panel
- Some form of a networking / Show & Tell sessions
- Usually 40-50 attendees
SJF 2015-2019 session examples

- *Looking Back and Looking Ahead: Ten Things I Wish I’d Known as a Student Journal Editorial Assistant* by Amber Dilabbio, Digital Production Coordinator, Journals, University of Toronto Press - keynote speaker, SJF2019

- *Running a Student Journal: Best Practices for Success and Sustainability* - panel session by student journal editors, SJF2018

- *Copyright & Scholarly Communications for Student Journals* - presentation by a U of T librarian, SJF2017

- *Faculty insights on the Editorial Process* by Prof Mark Kingwell - keynote speaker, SJF2015
SJF2015 Show and Tell
SJF 2020

- Co-organized with York University and promoted as a Toronto-wide event
- Students from 3 Toronto institutions attended (U of T, York, OCAD)
- Students from U of T and York U presented on a joint panel
- Half-day [Bootcamp for editors](#)
# Half-day bootcamp for editors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:30</td>
<td>Journal management essentials</td>
<td>Priscilla Carmini&lt;br&gt;Editor-in-Chief, The iJournal, University of Toronto</td>
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<td>Content licensing and author</td>
<td>Graeme Slaght&lt;br&gt;Scholarly Communications &amp; Copyright Outreach Librarian, University of Toronto Libraries</td>
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<td>contracts</td>
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<td>2:30 – 2:45</td>
<td>Break (coffee + snacks)</td>
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<td>2:45 – 4:00</td>
<td>Submissions and review</td>
<td>Mariya Maistrovskaya&lt;br&gt;Digital Publishing Librarian, University of Toronto Libraries</td>
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<td>Discoverability and marketing</td>
<td>Tomasz Mrozewski&lt;br&gt;Digital Publishing Librarian, York University Libraries</td>
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SJF2020 panel with journal editors
SJF2020 table topic discussions
2021 - Online and open to everyone

- Organizing committee expanded to include any institutions across Canada
- Collaborative organization

Institutions involved in organizing SJF2021
2021 - Online and open to everyone

- Kept the same format of presentations from previous years
- Invited student editors, librarians, and a plenary speakers
- Networking sessions were more informal
2021 Sessions

- **Student panels**
  - Journal Show & Tell
  - Peer review

- **Networking sessions**
  - Got publishing questions? Bring your questions for staff at University of Toronto Press!
  - Forum on Journal Sustainability

- **Presentations**
  - Plenary: Port in the Storm: Finding a Place in Graduate Student Journals
  - Skill sessions: Accessibility & Typesetting on Word
Project Management 101

Priscilla Carmini | University of Toronto
priscilla.carmini@mail.utoronto.ca

February 17th, 2021

Student Journal Forum Presented by:

SJF2021 virtual presentation
2022 - Online and student led

- Started this year with a Call for Proposals
  - Sent out call in our networks + social media
  - Received about 25 proposals
  - Offered to mentor applicants who were unsure (this wasn’t really needed)

- Shorter: 2 days instead of 4 days

- Public Knowledge Project (PKP) sponsored

- Created a mailing list for community building
Supporting Journal Sustainability

Presentation by:
- David Allens (he/him) | Editor-in-Chief
- Korede Akinkunmi (she/her) | Managing Editor

SJF2022 virtual presentation
Student feedback - “What was useful?” - summary

- Overall very positive feedback and high rates of satisfaction
- Editors appreciated hearing from their peers and learning from their experience
- Bootcamp and other practical sessions from librarians (e.g. on copyright, accessibility, etc.) were useful
- Students enjoyed being able to ask questions in smaller groups/table topic discussions and the supportive environment of the event
Student feedback - “What was useful?” - quotes

- “I enjoyed hearing about how the different student journals came to be and how the students have organized themselves/their different roles.” (2022)
- “Learning about how to make journals more accessible and about copyright practices was extremely helpful.” (2021)
- “A systematic introduction of all the editorial process. Very informative and well-presented!” (2020)
- “The round table discussion was great! It made the services offered accessible in terms of bettering my understanding “ (2019)
Student feedback - “What could be improved?”

- “Maybe more of a focus on technologies: how journals foster community/connection through tech, uses of social media, etc.” (2022)
- “Shorter technical talks on a specific topic-how to change your website's appearance, how to set up peer review, how to add Creative Commons Licences, etc.” (2021)
- “More bootcamp time!”; “More group exercises may be helpful but balanced with presentations.” (2020)
Future: What have we learned?

- Online means more people can attend BUT it’s harder to build community
- Just because they can attend doesn’t mean they do (low-ish attendance)
- Switch to a student led CFP meant more prep work but less work at the forum
- Lots of library staff attend!
2023: What’s next?

- Doing a call for a new 2023 organizing committee
- Revisit the publishing skills bootcamp
- Could do hybrid with regional meet ups?
- Community building: Create a directory of Student Journals?
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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