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

Library Publishing Forum 2022

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Who we are

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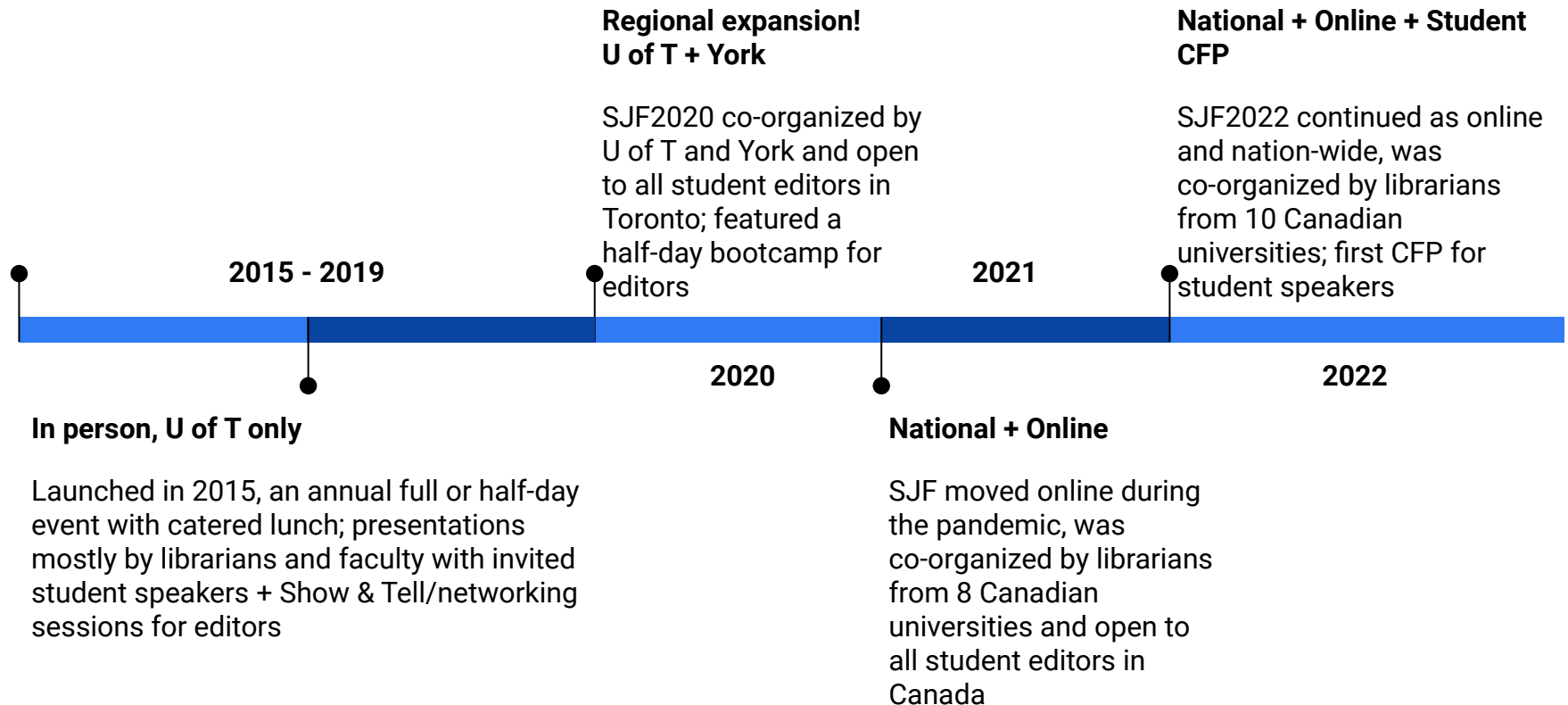

Institutions involved in organizing SJF2022

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

Student Journal Forum evolution

**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

2015 - 2019

2021

2020

2022

In person, U of T only

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

National + Online

SJF moved online during the pandemic, was co-organized by librarians from 8 Canadian universities and open to all student editors in Canada

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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

SJF2018 student panel presentation

SJF2018 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 <u>Bootcamp for editors</u>

Half-day bootcamp for editors

Time	Session	Presenter
1:00 – 2:30	Journal management essentials	Priscilla Carmini *Editor-in-Chief, The iJournal, University of Toronto*
	Content licensing and author contracts	Graeme Slaght *Scholarly Communications & Copyright Outreach Librarian, University of Toronto Libraries*
2:30 – 2:45	*Break (coffee + snacks)*	
2:45 – 4:00	Submissions and review	Mariya Maistrovskaya *Digital Publishing Librarian, University of Toronto Libraries*
	Discoverability and marketing	Tomasz Mrozewski *Digital Publishing Librarian, York University Libraries*

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

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

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SJF2022 virtual presentation
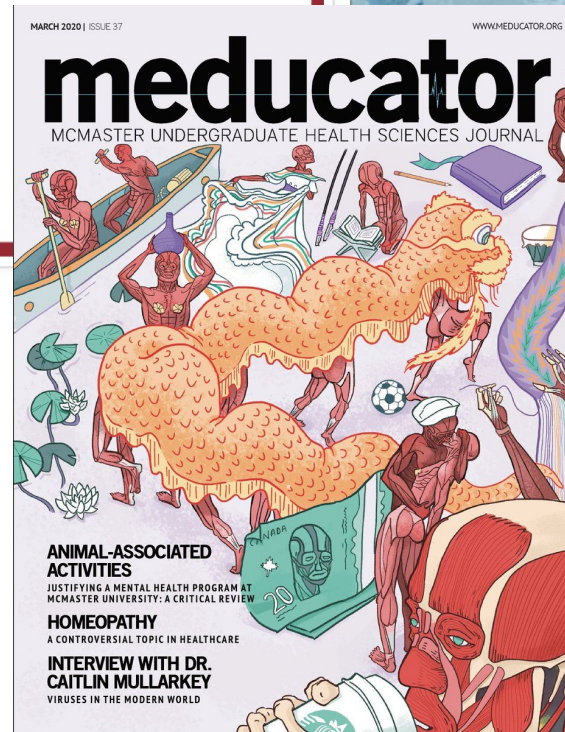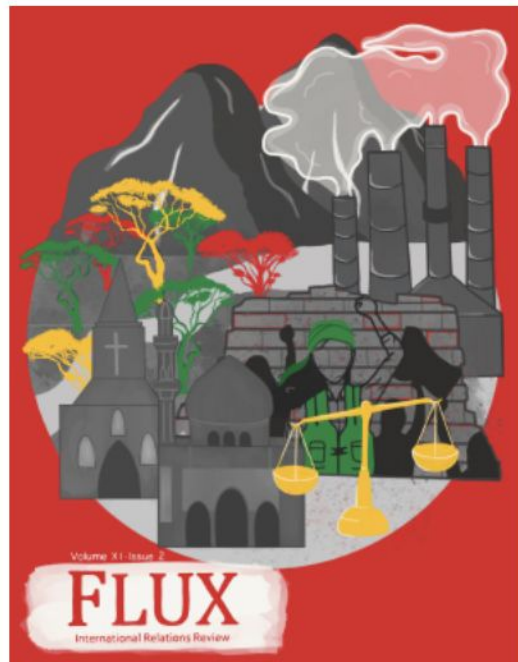
Student feedback - "What was useful?" - summary

- 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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