

## **2019 Executive Directors Report by Ken Clavette**

This year's conference marks my sixth CALJ-ACRS conference and just over 5 and a half years working for you. I realized in preparing for this conference that my time with you is now 1/5 of the organizations history. Working for you is promoting Canadian academic journals and that is promoting research to the nation and the world. I have learnt much over these years and while I knew very little of your daily struggles when I started through working with the board of directors and organizing these conferences I have become not only knowledgeable but committed to your struggles.

Five and a half years ago I did not know about Open Access, Predatory Publishing, copyright or Metadata. While I may not know enough to present a paper on Metadata I know that it is important to you because it is important to funders. What I can go on at length about is OA as it has dominated the work of CALJ-ACRS for my years with you and will continue to for years to come.

For those that don't know me I have spent most of the past 40 years involved in the Labour movement in one way or the other. In my work at CALJ-ACRS I do bring that baggage with me. When I look at the issue of OA I see it through two prisms; that of the ideologue, for I have often been one of those many times. But also the practical business side of getting something we want and often that means being very strategic and practical. So far I have seen and heard much "high ideals" from the OA ideologues but little practical solutions. Until this last year not a lot of concern was expressed as to how Journals can survive in the practical world that you do. And how to do so with less money. It is always easy to say how someone else should act or spend their money but a much harder thing to actually deliver that money. So far there has been much talk with little action. Much ideology but coming up short on the practical realities that Editors, Editorial Boards, and Managing Editors face with each and every issue you produce. We support OA but ask the hard questions to those who can't tell us how the industry survives with less money. Journals will not get produced on good intention and high ideals.

I have heard government, funding bodies, and the ideologues claim that publicly funded research must be made public with no pay walls. It's as if paying to disseminate research and knowledge is the only barrier our society faces in the education system. I can tell you living in Doug Ford's Ontario there are far greater issues to accessibility. This year alone the cutting of grants that support lower income students to pay their tuition removed 1.4 billion dollars out of the education system. The cuts are denning student's access to already funded institutions of higher education, and to the researchers and teachers in that system. These are cuts that the Ontario Federation of Students say will "directly impede the quality of life" for students. Yet somehow the biggest issue in academia is subscription fees to promote the work of those researchers and teachers. The hurdle that governments, and the ideologues, want to address is the fees paid to support the dissemination of knowledge. They do so without practical solutions and often have

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twist the truth with rhetoric and empty pockets. The members of CALJ-ACRS still have years of struggles ahead but only by having a united voice will you be able to have a strong voice, one that needs to be heard.

In my years with CALJ-ACRS there have been our own practical issues we struggle to address. One has been our membership, the fees, and the collection of same. After using several systems this spring we have adopted Quickbooks On-line and you will soon be receiving your 2019-20 membership invoices that way. It is hoped that the system will be streamlined and more efficient for our bookkeeping.

As you will hear the board members have been very active in trying to address the needs of the journal community. The committees are always looking for more membership involvement. The Professional Development and Communications committees want your assistance to help meet your needs. We have a challenging and very useful project just coming out of the pilot stage in the RAP – Readership Analytics Project. To make this success and to make your collection of data easier it will need your support. There is also the Scholarly & Research Communication Innovation Award that has met with a warm reception. Both of these have had the driving force of Rowly Lorimer to push them along. But now Rowly is leaving the board and moving yet even closer to his retirement. While he is helping CALJ-ACRS in the transition these are yours to make successful in the coming years.

Other practical issues that involve money are the membership fees and the annual conferences. We are reducing fees but the goal is to build a stronger more inclusive CALJ-ACRS by including those in the journal community that felt they could not be part of us. Those include student journals and the many OA journals that have no revenue. The board needs you to reach out to other journal editors you know and invite them to join your journal in CALJ-ACRS.

We have been very practical in trying to address your needs with the annual conference and yet keep the registration fees low. We have done that by building our sponsorship support. These events are expensive to put on, the food bill alone will be just under \$3,500. A/V and other furnishings come in at \$1,600. Your conference fee at \$70 is bring in less than \$3,000 this year. Then there are the costs of getting me to the conference and other related expenses. We could not put on this successful event and operate CALJ-ACRS without the support of our sponsors.

I want to thank the UofT Press and Lauren Bosc for their contribution to the leaflet and other printed material you see here today. We are slowly moving to a paperless conference by the placement of the AGM documents on-line. A few items that make your conference experience more rewarding and enjoyable will still be printed. But with the in-kind support of our members we keep cost under control. One of those costs that we do not have to cover is the Teleconferencing support give us by CSP, they do it for the board meeting, the committee meeting, and will for the first ever AMG broadcast this year. I want to thank all the board members for their support and dedication it makes my job rewarding to work with people like them.

In closing I want to raise a warning that there are those in society that will try and speak for the journal community but they don't always have your best interests at heart. There is only one

national voice for Canadian Academic journal and that is your voice, the voice of journals united in CALJ-ACRS. Don't let your needs be sideline. Keep united and keep your voice strong.