

In the *news*

Welcome to the January 2022 issue of *C&RL News*, the first issue of the magazine published under our new online-only model. At press time, the newly discovered omicron COVID-19 variant was making news around the world, showing that the pandemic continues to have an impact on all of our lives. As a new term starts under these continuing uncertain conditions, recognizing the psychological impact of COVID-19 remains as important as ever.

Prior to the pandemic, the Cornell University Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library launched a program to address the mental health challenges experienced by many of their students by providing free tea in the library as a calming force. Erin R. B. Eldermire and Wasima Shinwari write about their efforts at supporting student wellness by “Brewing tranquili-tea.” While the project remains on hold due to COVID-19, similar programs to foster connections between students and the library can be one way to address the stress of the ongoing pandemic.

The need to take a step back and address wellbeing extends to library workers as well as students. During 2020 and 2021, the Bryant University library used tea to allow for continued connections between colleagues and a venue for sharing the impact of the pandemic, a practice that has adapted after their return to their physical spaces. Angie Cox and Jaycie Vos discuss the impact of their “Virtual staff teas” this month.

Supporting student success in these challenging times also extends to providing access to materials and library instruction. Jennifer L. Murray and Christopher Boyd outline ways the “Technical services and systems” departments at the University of North Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University libraries provide support for continuity of instruction and learning in a remote environment

On the instruction front, Emily Reed of Penn State University writes about her efforts at engaging international students in library instruction during the pandemic through the use of educational technology like Nearpod in “From passive listeners to active participants.”

In the first of two The Way I See It essays this issue, Karen O’Grady of the University of San Diego reflects on her conversion to being a “Zoombrarian” through creating personalized database instruction videos for her health sciences students during the pandemic.

In this month’s Scholarly Communication column, Patricia Lombardi and Sam Simas highlight “The Bryant Faculty Spotlight,” a podcast series launched at the Bryant University Douglas and Judith Krupp Library to promote their institutional repository that grew and flourished over the course of the pandemic into a way to highlight faculty research in general.

Make sure to check out the other features and departments this month, including a look at “ACRL candidates for 2022” and a The Way I See It essay by Shin Freedman on breaking barriers to having librarian scholarship recognized in campus award programs.

Thanks as always for reading the *News*!

—David Free, editor-in-chief, dfree@ala.org