

Librarian as editor: amplifying the voices of the marginalised

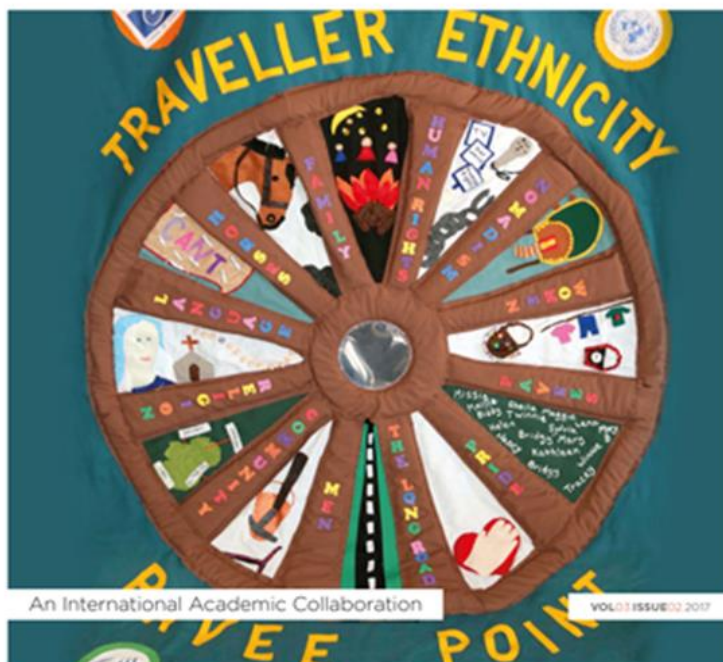
Jane Buggle

Deputy Librarian
Dublin Business School
Dublin, Ireland

Abstract

This article outlines the establishment of a cross-institutional, peer-reviewed, academic journal, Studies in Arts and Humanities, and describes the librarian-edited Special Issue on Minorities and Indigenous People which was published to commemorate the granting of official ethnic minority status to Irish Travellers by the Irish Government in March 2017.

Keywords: Libraries--publishing; Irish travellers (Nomadic people).



Dublin Business School (DBS) is the largest private Higher Education Institution in Ireland. It offers a range of Arts, Business, Law and ICT programmed up to Masters level. It has a strong focus on high quality pedagogy, teaching and learning and also on research output.

Dublin Business School has a very dedicated Library Team. This small team comprises eight professional librarians including dedicated Research and Teaching Librarians. The team has a flat structure that values both Entrepreneurial Leadership and Enabling Leadership (Ancona, Backman and Isaacs, 2019). Innovation is encouraged and team members can get behind projects that they believe in. In this way, DBS Library offers a comprehensive and modern service which was formally acknowledged when it won the Best Library Team Award at the inaugural national Education Awards in 2017. DBS offers an MSc Information and Library Management on which the Library Publishing Curriculum is embedded in the Open Librarianship module.

DBS Library published two strategic plans in the period 2009 -2019, the first of which focused on technology and the second focused on research, the creation of an institutional repository and the compilation of the College Registers of Scholarly Activity. At this point, we began to look into the growing area of Library Publishing as a means to expand the institutional research output, to read the literature in this area and to reach out to faculty within DBS and in other institutions to gauge interest in the establishment of a library-published journal in the Arts and Humanities subject area. [Studies in Arts and Humanities Journal](#) (SAH Journal) was established as an open access, library published, cross-institutional, peer-reviewed academic journal which would publish two issues per year. The unique selling point of the journal was to publish high quality peer-reviewed articles by undergraduate and postgraduate students alongside those by faculty. The first issue was launched in June 2015. The Library Team went on to replicate this model with the annual publication, the [DBS Business Review](#) in 2017. Both journals abide by the COPE ethical standards, employ double-blind peer-review and have Advisory Boards that are composed of academics from across the sector, both nationally and internationally, who have prodigious research outputs and substantial reputations in their areas. The journals are indexed on the Directory of Open Access Journals and on ProQuest and EBSCO databases.

In summer 2017, the Editorial Board of SAH Journal met to plan a special themed issue. Possible themes were explored. Senior Editor, Marie O'Neill, suggested that we plan a theme around the recent official recognition of Irish Travellers as an ethnic minority by the Irish Government. David Doolin also noted the growing protests of the Lakota Sioux Nation to the proposed oil pipeline in North Dakota. It was agreed that

the theme would be Indigenous People and Ethnic Minorities. I was appointed Editor of this special issue.

A call for papers was disseminated nationally and internationally to universities, learned societies and organisations. Key people were identified from within the Irish Traveller Movement such as Martin Collins, Director of [Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre](#). Martin agreed to write the editorial on what the granting of official ethnic recognition by the Irish Government means to Irish Travellers. It was decided that a holistic approach would be taken and that topics relating to indigenous people would be explored, using a breadth of lenses including geography, history, culture, art and health. A range of content would be included from peer-reviewed articles to opinion pieces, interviews, poetry and book reviews. Interviews were carried out with Missy Collins, Pavee Point Health Worker, about the Irish Traveller way of life, and with Dr Gianpiero Cavalleri, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, who had recently published research into the genetic structure of the Irish Traveller Community which provided an estimate of when the Irish Travellers split from the 'settled' population of Ireland some twelve generations previously.

Key figures from this interdisciplinary area were identified internationally and were targeted with the call for papers. Submissions started coming in from universities around the world. An academic from the University of Auckland wrote on politics, Māori rights and resource ownership. We received a co-published work from the Monash University in Australia which explored the diverse symbolism of a broom in the lives of the women of the Yanyuwa Aboriginal nation. An academic from Trinity College Dublin looked at the settlement of Sephardic Jews in Salonika through the lens of one particular folk song. We were particularly heartened to receive our first piece of European-funded research authored by world renowned experts on the Roma people, Dr Elena Marushiakova and Dr Vesilin Popov from the University of St Andrew's in Scotland, on the Commencement of Roma Civic Emancipation. A postgraduate student from the University of Hawaii submitted a fascinating personal reflection on the Lakota Sioux Nation's protests at Standing Rock in Dakota. A group of University College Dublin academics wrote on the protection of minority languages.

[The Studies in Arts and Humanities Journal Special Issue on Minorities and Indigenous People](#) launched on 7th December 2017 in the Mansion House in Dublin. The Lord Mayor, Micheal Mac Donnacha opened the event. Martin Collins gave a powerful speech about the importance of the official recognition to Irish Travellers after so many years of campaigning. Bridgy and Molly Collins sang traditional Irish Traveller songs while Dr Katerina Garcia sang songs from the Sephardic tradition.

Librarians have demonstrated their acumen in the library publishing of scholarly output in many universities around the world. The library publishing skill set comprises skills that have been honed in other library activities including use of metadata (Case, 2008), management of platforms, providing research support on getting published (Kalikman, 2016), bibliometrics (Clobridge, 2013), copyright and author rights (Gumb, 2019), funding sources and applications (Budd and Stewart, 2015), archiving and

preservation (Davis, Robertson and Simser, 2018). In addition, librarians possess the research skills to be editors in their own right; to source content from faculty and specialised departments as well as to manage the publishing process.

As editor of this special issue of SAH Journal, I learned that librarians are well positioned to extend the publishing skill set into the commissioning area as well as the traditional workflow and platform management. I believe that this will be a future area of growth. A key responsibility of libraries is to advocate for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Goals (Kear and Garcia-Phebo, 2020). The publication of a special issue such as this demonstrates the potential transformative power of library publishing to shine a light on indigenous people and ethnic minorities and their struggles in terms of social justice, inclusivity and diversity, and to do so in a fully open and accessible way.

References

Ancona, D., Backman, E. and Isaacs, K. (2019) 'Nimble leadership: walking the line between creativity and chaos', *Harvard Business Review*, 97(4), pp. 74-83.

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib,cookie,url&db=bth&AN=137120579&site=bsi-live> (Accessed: 10 June 2020).

Budd, J.M. and Stewart, K.M. (2105) 'Is there such a thing as "Least Publishable Unit"? An empirical investigation', *LIBRES: Library & Information Science Research Electronic Journal*, December, 25(2), pp. 78-85.

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib,cookie,url&db=lls&AN=114566407&site=eds-live> (Accessed: 10 June 2020).

Case, Mary M. (2008) 'Partners in knowledge creation: an expanded role for research libraries in the digital future', *Journal of Library Administration*, 28(2), pp. 141-156. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01930820802231336>

Clobridge, A. (2013) 'You say you want a revolution?', *Online Searcher*, 37(2), pp. 38-43

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib,cookie,url&db=lls&AN=86149977&site=ehost-live> (Accessed: 10 June 2020).

Davis, C. A., Robertson, W. C. and Simser, C. N. (2018) 'Navigating the political waters of open access publishing in libraries', *Serials Librarian*, 74(1-4), pp. 194-200. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0361526X.2018.1428477>.

Gumb, Lindsey (2019) 'An open impediment: navigating copyright and OER publishing in the academic library', *College & Research Libraries News*, 80(4) pp. 202-15. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.5860/crln.80.4.202>

Kalikman, S. (2016) 'The Library Publishing Coalition: organizing libraries to enhance scholarly publishing', *Insights: The UKSG Journal*, 29(2), pp.186-191. DOI:

<http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.296>

Kear, R. and Garcia-Febo, L. (2020) 'ALA UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Task Force', *International Journal of Librarianship*, 5(2), pp. 94–97.