And so it goes…

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Sometimes in this column I take the opportunity to write about issues, as well as updating the readers about the state of the journal, the editorial board, and our activities. As I was preparing to write this on the last day of fall, this of course being the fall issue, I thought I don’t have time, it’s been way too busy this term, maybe I’ll skip writing something this time around or I’ll just explain how busy I’ve been taking on a new role at my library and let myself off the hook. Then I remembered Pam and Denise’s article on the culture of busy and I sat down for a couple of minutes and re-read the article. That helped put things in perspective for me. So, even though it’s not a long piece, I thought I should still provide an update, so here goes….

This issue is a smaller one than usual, but at the onset of the journal, we agreed that the advantage of an electronic journal, even with a very broad mandate, was that it didn’t matter if every section was published in every issue. That it was more important to have an accessible venue, but with top rate articles that had undergone appropriate peer review and editorial scrutiny. As a volunteer organizing a number of other volunteers to put together a rigorous, peer reviewed journal over a very large country, things don’t always go smoothly but I said I wasn’t going to complain about “busy”. We’ve had some changes in our editorial board once again and we will be looking for a section editor for the Conference Spotlight section in the New Year. Apologies to the authors that submitted to the Conference Spotlight section, we should have a number of articles ready for the Spring issue. That being said the articles contained in this issue are great, few but mighty.

As far as readership goes, our statistics look great! In the words of Stan Ruecker and Steve Harnad, if you want your work read and cited, make it accessible and publishing in an open access journal is definitely a great way to do this. The October stats report showed that the 202 articles we have published since late 2006 have been viewed or downloaded 408,678 times. Thank you to our readers! We continue to receive requests from vendors asking us if they can index or repackage our journal content and this is a very nice change from us asking them. Good news for our readers and authors.

As editor, I am working my way to a better understanding of creative commons licensing and what it means for indexing, authors, and the journal. I think I have a clearer picture after speaking with Cory Doctorow at the Access Conference in the fall, as well as an email exchange with the editor of one of the most prestigious open access journals,
PLoS Biology. I believe we should be moving to the Canadian Attribution 2.5 License. This is pretty much the same as our current license; it is just the Canadian version. We will make this change on our site starting with the next issue and we will indicate on each of the past issues what creative commons license they were produced under.

Catherine Baird, our marketing editor, and I have been meeting via teleconference this month, to begin a marketing strategy/plan for the journal. This plan is only in its initial stages, but will focus on increasing submissions using social networking, RSS feeds, as well as more collaborative efforts between the editorial board and provincial and territorial library associations. Look for a stronger presence from the journal in 2010.

From the editorial team at the Partnership, we wish a relaxing or productive holiday season, whichever you prefer, and a Happy New Year. See you in 2010.