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Guest Editor's Note

Caitlin Wells

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As Cheryl Oestreicher states in her editor's note for the 2014 issue of *Provenance*, scholarship is important to the archives profession. However, it can also be one of the most confusing parts of the profession for students and new archivists. The process of writing, submitting, rewriting, and resubmitting can be daunting for those who have gone through it before; for first-time authors, it can be even more so. The sheer amount of time that can stretch between clicking the "submit" button and finally seeing one's published article—as well as the various steps in between—can be overwhelming. We write papers in library school, but the process and structure of these papers are so different from that of academic publishing that it can be hard to adapt to the different standards when it comes time to publish.

Cheryl approached the Society of American Archivists' Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Round Table about doing a SNAP issue in the summer of 2014, and the steering committee immediately agreed that this would be a fantastic opportunity for those entering the profession to get more experience with the publishing process. I volunteered to co-edit the issue because I wanted to know more about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making an academic journal, and wanted to help first-time submitters understand the process. Before deciding on library school, I worked in media relations for my alma mater and as a copy editor for my college and local newspapers. I love editing; taking a piece of writing and helping talk an author through making it better has always been fun and rewarding. I had submitted a few articles for peer review and had a general idea of how the process worked. However, as much as I thought I knew about the academic publishing process from the outside, I still was not prepared for the immense amount of work that goes into creating an issue. Coordinating submissions, peer reviews, and various drafts added up to a pile of paper over a foot high occupying my coffee table for months on end, much to my husband's chagrin. The process of editing took much longer than I expected, and without Cheryl's help with the front matter, it would have stretched on even longer.

While getting the issue together was tough, it has been a fantastic opportunity to learn more about archival publishing. The most rewarding part of the project has been seeing the amazing research done by students and new archivists; I was even able to acquire some new knowledge that I could bring back to my work at New Mexico State University. Hopefully, this process has helped demystify the peer review process for the contributors as well as highlight the great work that is being done by those new to the field. I am honored to have been able to contribute to such a wonderful project, and thankful to Cheryl Oestreicher for giving SNAP members the opportunity to become better acquainted with the sometimes intimidating world of academic publishing.

Caitlin Wells is the Archivist for the Rio Grande Historical Collections at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. In this position, she supervises processing, preservation, and reference for the university's archival collections related to the history and culture of southern New Mexico and the borderlands region. Her research interests include collection management systems and technologies, processing strategies, and

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