
Editorial Response to OLAQ 25(2)

Dear OLA Colleagues and OLA Quarterly Readers,

I am writing in response to the conversation surrounding the Oregon Library Association Quarterly (OLAQ) Summer issue, 25(2). I understand the concerns many readers have expressed about the final article in the issue, “Yes, but . . . One Librarian’s Thoughts About Doing It Right” and agree with the valid criticism that the OLAQ editorial standards need to be strengthened.

As the guest editor of this issue, I take responsibility for choosing the theme, reviewing proposals, selecting contributors, and reading the first draft of the authors’ submissions before passing them on to the editorial team. My goal is to provide a forum for a variety of voices on the topic of equity, diversity and inclusion in Oregon libraries, including library type, career experience, and geographic location within the state. I missed my responsibility to more critically reflect on the final article and engage the author in an editorial conversation, particularly in relation to commentary on Dr. Debbie Reese’s 2019 May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture, *An Indigenous Critique of Whiteness in Children’s Literature*. I am sorry for the impact and distress it has caused.

The conversations we are having surrounding equity, diversity, inclusion, racism and white privilege are challenging and necessary. These include our conversations surrounding intellectual freedom and how this intersects with the development of inclusive and equitable libraries and communities. The Oregon Library Association has much to learn as an organization and understands open dialogue and constructive criticism help OLA grow as an association. I look forward to continuing dialogue and education about equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Sincerely,
Elaine Hirsch
OLAQ 25(2) *Guest Editor*
OLA President, 2019–2020

