

# Call for Proposals for a Special Issue of *portal*

**Working title:** Academic Libraries: Responsive in Crisis

## **Guest editors**

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## **Aims and scope**

*portal: Libraries and the Academy* seeks proposals for a special-themed issue on academic library responses to the current higher education crisis fostered by the pandemic, racial inequities, and economic hardship. While this is a trying time on many levels, it also offers a chance to question traditional academic library practices and perspectives and to adapt to what is possible (and what works) within individual institutions and the profession. With that in mind, this issue seeks to explore and accentuate positive possibilities—the unique opportunities, creative strategies, and innovative responses—that have emerged in academic libraries because of these challenges.

*Potential topics relevant to the current crisis include, but are certainly not limited to:*

- Inventive provision of both remote and on-site services
- Remote teaching, learning, and research support
- Building campus connections and student engagement
- Creative redeployment of staff and opportunities for growth
- Innovative technology solutions for remote work
- Responsive organizational strategies for diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) and evidence of their impact
- Supporting faculty and staff work-life balance and mental health
- Maximizing and managing collections funds during a budget crisis
- Library space planning and utilization in an era of physical distancing

## **Publication schedule**

Publication of the special issue is tentatively planned for early 2022. Interested authors should submit an abstract of 300 words to the editors by November 30, 2020, and will be notified of decisions by December 30, 2020. Original, completed manuscripts are due by April 30, 2021,

with earlier submissions encouraged. Final revised manuscripts will be due by August 30, 2021. Submitted papers should adhere to the format requirements of *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, described at

[http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/portal\\_libraries\\_and\\_the\\_academy/guidelines.html](http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/portal_libraries_and_the_academy/guidelines.html).

Manuscripts will be subject to editorial assessment but not to blind peer review. Novice authors, as well as those sharing diverse perspectives, are encouraged to submit. Authors invited to revise and resubmit their papers will be expected to work within the designated time frame to meet the special issue's publication deadline. We welcome inquiries and encourage authors interested in submitting to this special issue to discuss their submissions with the editors in advance.

### **Submission process and additional information**

Please complete the submission form at <https://forms.gle/iCBvV7bmrBuCpHii8> .

Send related communication and any questions about this special issue to the editors, Ellysa Stern Cahoy, [ecahoy@psu.edu](mailto:ecahoy@psu.edu), Maribeth Slebodnik, [slebodnik@arizona.edu](mailto:slebodnik@arizona.edu), and Marianne Ryan, [mryan21@luc.edu](mailto:mryan21@luc.edu).