

Hello.

So what is an online publication anyway?

Our team has been thinking about this issue since last February and our conversations have been sparked by Mike Ridley's parting comment that Open Shelf could use more multimedia content ... podcasts, videos, etc.

We agree, which is why we encourage authors—new and established—to think about alternative ways to tell stories and share content.

And we're thrilled that some have taken up the challenge. For example, Shelagh Paterson, OLA executive director, and Leslie Weir, OLA president, are sharing their ideas with the OLA community via a podcast—watch for the latest one in October.

But our team also knows that online means that web-based publications have particular “look and feel,” one that works for web users and web readers. So, over the past six months, we've been working with OLA staff (Annesha Hutchison, Robert Nishimura and Kenrick Oliver) to develop a new layout that we hope is easy for our readers to use and nice to look at.

We have all of the key features we identified, including clear top-level navigation and access to the most recent content on the home page.

Plus, over the next few months we'll be working on other need-to—have features such as an easy-to-use archive of past issues. To go only with the new look and feel, we also have updated our author guidelines along with the editorial policies and procedures. One new addition to the guidelines is a tagging guideline, complete with a list of current tags as well as links to two online tools to help authors create tags.

Plus, we've clarified the copyright section and one of our articles this month is a short FAQ that decodes our Creative Commons license. Look for new columns coming out this fall, including LGBTQ+: International perspectives and The Books is better—a podcast that takes up the challenge of comparing the text and film version of a story.

Finally, each month we'll be polling you, to find out what you think about key issues.

This month we'd like to know if you'll be voting in the IFLA Global Vision discussion—an important conversation that is happening worldwide and is getting library folks talking about our future in an every globalizing world (and is that redundant? Maybe, but maybe not).

So, read on and we hope you'll enjoy. And, as always, we'd love to hear back from you via the poll, comments on stories as well as emails to the editor.

Soundtrack

Luxor, composed by Rick Dickert. www.freesoundtrackmusic.com