

Editorial Introduction

Communication Centers: A Way Forward

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Abstract

Journals serve a centralizing role for many fields. They're often a venue for exchanging and archiving ideas, research, and knowledge, building on past studies, and advancing future ones. In this editorial introduction to Volume 3, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Communication Center Journal (CCJ)* suggests CCJ as a way forward for the communication center community.

Introduction

The *Communication Center Journal (CCJ)* is now in its third year of publication. After much discussion, analysis, and planning, the journal launched to serve the communication center community as a scholarly venue for research, praxis, and tutor perspectives.

Journals serve important roles in an academic community. They provide a forum for exchanging new ideas and approaches, while also challenging or adding to previous knowledge. *CCJ*, though, fills many roles for the growing communication center community. Articles featured in the general section offer perspectives on research and praxis, building our base of scholarly approaches. Both provide valuable insight and, hopefully, inspiration.

The journal-focused workshop held at the National Association of Communication Centers (NACC) conference in Grand Rapids, MI, this year highlighted numerous ways forward. Priorities included establishing a culture of scholarly thinking about communication centers, inviting valuable perspectives from

students offering peer-to-peer feedback in our communication centers, valuing praxis alongside research-based perspectives, and furthering the dialogue among our programs and people. *CCJ* should accomplish these goals by providing an emerging venue for activities to thrive.

Exploring Volume 3

Volume 3 features manuscripts that examine communication center topics from multiple perspectives. Readers will find research-focused topics that further our knowledge of communication centers through evidence-based arguments and rationales. Articles included in the praxis section might propose a new way of approaching peer-to-peer work, communication center design, or program development, to name a few topics. The Digital Perspectives from the Center (CPD) projects are video based and allow authors to show their work. In some cases, activities that take place in our centers are better demonstrated through audio and visual perspectives. The Excellence in the Center pieces provide valuable ideas from our

student colleagues. Communication centers strive to employ bright, energetic students who value and promote highly effective communication-design processes and can help our students transfer them to their own applications. Many authors in the Excellence in the Center section are current and future student leaders, ready to shape the landscape of communication centers and programs across the higher education landscape.

I encourage centers to incorporate the articles featured in volume 3 in a number of ways. Foremost, browse them for ideas of use for your own center(s). I also hope you'll share them with your student staff members and colleagues. Incorporate the articles into your professional development programs and reference them before or after sessions or workshops with students. Communication center research, development, and praxis will benefit from these exchanges, along with the productive dialogues you'll have on your home campus. Discuss the manuscripts at meetings such as the National Communication Association convention and National Association of Communication Centers conference. Reference these authors and build on their important contributions.

The topics explored in the special section this year focused on the many perspectives on the technologies, media, and tools of communication centers. While we often share our practices, approaches, and even research via listeners and other outlets, including social media, and at times visit each other's centers or participate in valuable conference sessions, communication centers will benefit from a scholarly archive of possibilities. *CCJ*--possibly more than any other journal--is driven by possibilities.

Driven by possibilities, *CCJ* is a way forward. The manuscripts featured in this issue--and those that follow it--represent the growing literature in communication

centers. In addition, these perspectives allow for the productive dialogues to complement and extend one another.

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