Welcome C4DISC Members

Welcome members of C4DISC and our wider community! We’re delighted you’re here and taking the time to read the first issue of C4DISC Connect, our member newsletter. This is the best way to stay up-to-date with the Coalition. We aim to publish quarterly at a minimum to make sure we’re regularly connecting with you. If this is your first time exploring C4DISC, we’re pleased to have you.

As a membership organization, the Mission of C4DISC is to work with organizations and individuals to build equity, inclusion, diversity, and accessibility in scholarly communications. Our Vision is a socially just community that welcomes, values, and celebrates all who seek to contribute to scholarly communications.

The Values of C4DISC include:
- Respect: value differences, welcome diverse perspectives
- Listen: learn from different communities, make space for marginalized voices
- Act: eliminate barriers, be an ally

In this special video message, Melanie Dolechek, Convener of C4DISC, Executive Director at the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) and Convener of the C4DISC Steering Committee, talks about what inspired the creation of C4DISC and the Coalition’s aspirations.

For more on the Coalition, please explore our website. This issue of the C4DISC Connect includes a special video message from Melanie Dolechek, Convener of C4DISC, updates on activities in our coalition, a featured section on Black History Month, and more.

Please make sure to check out the Call to Action at the end. If you have content you would like to see or contribute for an upcoming issue, please don’t hesitate to reach out to C4DISC@gmail.com or tweet us @c4disc. We would love to hear from you!

Thank you for reading!
CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH:
FEBRUARY 2021

Black History Month is an annual nationwide celebration, originating in the US, that calls on all Americans to honor and promote achievements made by African-Americans, and to reflect and recognize the central role they have played in shaping the nation’s history. Observed every February, Black History Month is now also recognized in other parts of the world, including Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and more, though it may be celebrated in other months of the year.

We encourage you to read this article about the importance of Black history and why Black History Month should be celebrated beyond February. The article includes an interview with Dr. Lionel Kimble, Jr., Vice President for Programs at the Associate for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), an organization founded by historian Carter G. Woodson, who created and announced the precursor to Black History Month - Negro History Week - back in February 1926.

We invite you to together take on the call to action that is Black History Month as it pertains to our industry:

- **Encourage** your colleagues and organizations to celebrate, engage, and support organizations championing Black academics, researchers, and scholars; such as Association of Black Women Historians, Black British Professionals in STEM, Leading Routes, Black in Cancer, and the National Society of Black Engineers. There are many more!

- **Reflect** on the state of diversity and equity in our industry. We recommend reading this two-part series published in the Scholarly Kitchen: ‘On Being Excluded: Testimonies by People of Color in Scholarly Publishing’ (part 1, part 2), which features first-hand accounts by Black people working in our industry.

- **Engage** your own organization and push for actions that center and uplift Black colleagues, and share your efforts with us at C4DISC so we can make progress together.

- **Support** Black educators and businesses. One example: in celebration of Black History Month 2021, Coursera has created a curated selection of 21 courses taught by Black experts in various fields, including diversity and inclusion at work, inclusive leadership, and more.

C4DISC UPDATES

- We’re excited to introduce you to Ana Maria Jimenez-Moreno, Ph.D., C4DISC’s new staff member! Ana joined us in February 2021 as our Community Coordinator. Welcome Ana! You can learn more about Ana and her role in this press release.

- Registration is now open for our free webinar with Dr. Tojo Thatchenkery, George Mason University: “Quiet Leadership: Discovering the New Strategic Advantage and the Hidden Talent in Your Organization.”

- Have you explored our Toolkits for Equity project, which aims to provide resources for our community, for allies, for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and for organizations? The first of the three toolkits is published: Antiracism Toolkit for Allies.
ANSWERING A CALL FROM MANY IN THE TRANS ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, A NUMBER OF PUBLISHERS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED UPDATES TO THEIR AUTHOR NAME CHANGE POLICY. KEY CHANGES INCLUDE NO LONGER ISSUING A CORRECTION NOTICE TO THE PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND NO LONGER INFORMING CO-AUTHORS OF THE CHANGE. PUBLISHERS THAT HAVE MADE THESE CHANGES INCLUDE THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, PLOS, ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY, AND WILEY.

JUST LAST MONTH, COPE ISSUED AN UPDATE ON THEIR AUTHOR NAME CHANGE GUIDANCE, ANNOUNCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW GUIDANCE DOCUMENT THAT’S MORE TRANS-INCLUSIVE. NISO VOTING MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY BEING BALLOTTED TO APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FORMAL RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON AUTHOR NAME CHANGES IN PUBLICATIONS.

IN JANUARY 2021, CELL PRESS ANNOUNCED A NEW INITIATIVE ACROSS THE MAJORITY OF THEIR PRIMARY RESEARCH JOURNALS TO GIVE AUTHORS THE OPTION TO INCLUDE AN INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT (SIMILAR TO A DECLARATION STATEMENT) HIGHLIGHTING ELEMENTS OF THE STUDY DESIGN AND/OR AUTHOR CHARACTERISTICS RELEVANT TO INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY. LEARN MORE IN THIS SCHOLARLY KITCHEN INTERVIEW.

REGISTRATION FOR ALPSP CREATING AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE WEBINAR (MARCH 2-3) IS NOW OPEN.

THANKS FOR READING!

- C4DISC COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH WORKING GROUP (CONTACT US AT C4DISC@GMAIL.COM)