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## Editorial

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# EDITORIAL

Dr. Elizabeth Brite, Clinical Associate Professor, John Martinson Honors College



Welcome to the Fall 2023 issue of the *Purdue Journal of Service-Learning and International Engagement* (PJSL). This year, we are pleased to welcome a diversity of contributions from Purdue students and their partners that showcase the full return to in-person engagement in the state of

Indiana and beyond. Though the impacts of the pandemic are still with us, the projects presented in this issue document the endurance of service-learning to thrive in a time of significant transitions.

In keeping with a return to thriving in-person and in place, many of the contributions in this volume center the values that are embedded materially and representationally in our communities through service-learning. Bringing this to the fore, Kayla Vasilko shares about a museum exhibition she organized for the LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, which sheds light on an important figure in Indiana women’s history, silent film star Anita King. Researching and collaborating with partners across two semesters of graduate work, Vasilko saved King’s films from destruction at the Library of Congress, while also curating a national travelling exhibit and installing a permanent plaque in LaPorte, Indiana commemorating King’s contributions. On the West Lafayette campus, two articles this issue similarly emphasize the impacts service-learning can have on representation in the physical spaces of campus, highlighting the important work of Purdue’s cultural centers. Through a service-learning project with Purdue’s Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center,

David and colleagues document the oral histories of Asian businesses in the Greater Lafayette community. And in another well-crafted contribution, Kamilah Valentín Díaz shares about the critical role of Purdue’s Latino Cultural Center in supporting students who call the center home. These contributions provide important and timely reminders of the ways in which a diverse university is critical to the vitality of our community spaces, on campus and far beyond it.

Other contributions in this issue demonstrate the many, varied ways Purdue students shape community landscapes through their service-learning projects. For example, both Troy Weber and Elizabeth McCleery present different projects about green infrastructure initiatives in the Greater Lafayette area. This issue also features two collaborations with the West Lafayette Public Library to improve the facility and its offerings (De Silva et al.; Fauber and Fletcher), and efforts to advance STEM teaching in Indiana communities (Babalola et al.; Nuguid). As you read, we invite you to consider the significant impacts that service-learning has in shaping the communities in which we live, grow, and interact.

As always, the ability to highlight these efforts would not be possible without the support of Purdue’s Office of Engagement, and the many contributions of our staff, reviewers, editorial board members, and faculty who serve as mentors. We thank them for their efforts, and we hope that you enjoy reading and learning more about service-learning and international engagement at Purdue.

## READERSHIP REPORT

Below, we provide a readership report that summarizes the global reach and impact of PJSL for our readers.

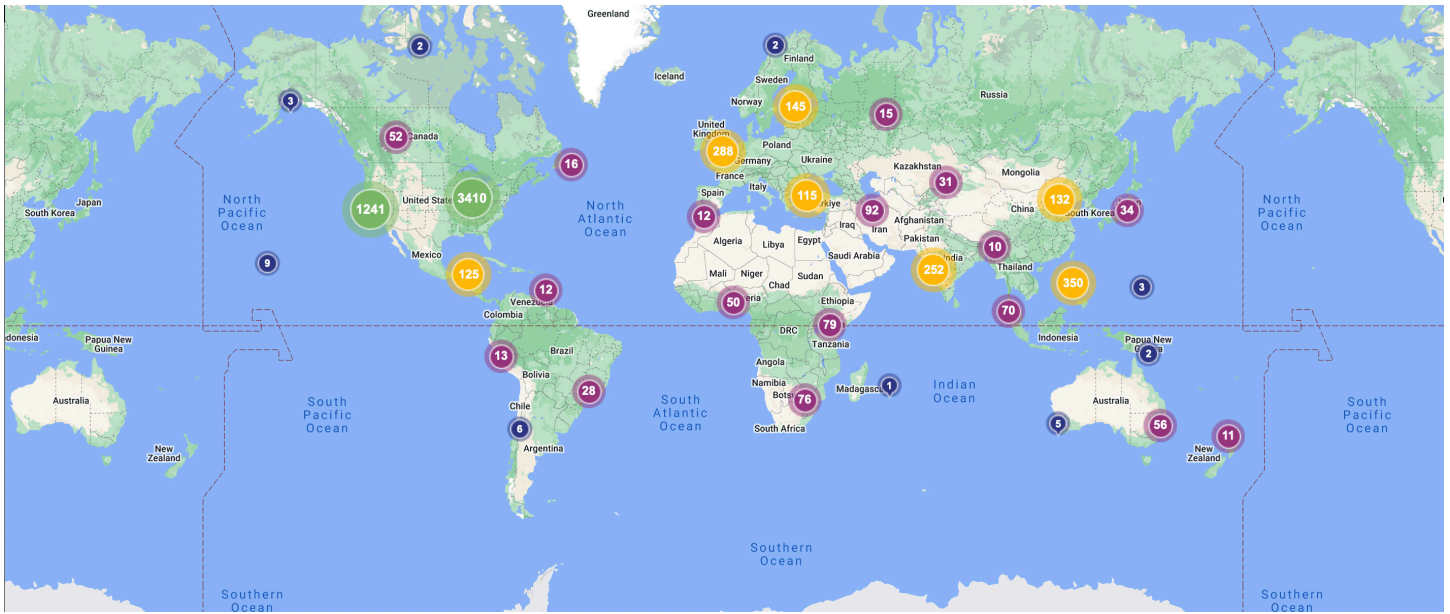


Figure 1. PJS� worldwide readership distribution from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022

Table 1. Readership metrics for PJS�, 2014–2022

Year	Articles	Total downloads	Metadata page hits	Number of institutions	Number of countries
2014	14	604	709	n/a	n/a
2015	21	1841	489	199	76
2016	25	3274	1220	360	99
2017	28	3835	1805	414	108
2018	22	4155	1788	518	126
2019	19	6675	2482	495	121
2020	25	9494	3011	451	126
2021	23	8368	3551	478	125
2022	13	6932	3733	608	120

Information is presented in the aggregate since the journal’s founding in 2014 and for 2022, as indicated below.

### Summary Trends

Regarding PJS�’s global impact as an open-access journal, Figure 1 illustrates the worldwide readership distribution for the journal in 2022. As in years past, the heaviest concentration remains in North America with significant readership across Europe and Asia. Additional readership metrics provided by BePress Digital Commons are represented in Table 1. Download totals indicate the number of times an article is accessed in full, including via search engines; metadata page hits reflect how readers interact with the journal repository via the website.<sup>1,2</sup>

For 2022, Table 1 shows perceptible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on journal outcomes and, despite this, steady trends of growth. Specifically, there is an observable decrease in published articles in the 2022 issue (n=13) that we surmise resulted from the impacts of restrictions on in-person service-learning. Nevertheless, total downloads exceeded those in 2019 even with fewer articles published, and metadata page hits show steady increases across time. We also note the continued expansion of PJS�’s institutional and global reach.

### High-Impact Articles

PlumX analytics provides an additional, downloads-based popularity index for individual articles. PJS�’s all-time most popular paper by total number of full downloads (n=1,925) is *Community Involvement at an*

*Elementary School: Cultural Differences and Their Effects on Education* by Tanner Givens published in 2014 (volume 1). In 2022, PJSJ published 13 original, student-authored articles (volume 9). The most popular paper from 2022 by total number of full downloads (n=112) is the faculty profile *Dr. Kim Scipes: Building a Network of Compassion in a World Waiting to Be United* by Kayla Vasilko.

### Future Directions

Though PJSJ submission and acceptance rates were clearly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to report strong positive trends in readership

despite a lower volume issue in 2022. We expect these volume rates to increase in the years ahead, as we continue to pursue best practices for identifying and showcasing service-learning across Purdue.

### NOTES

1. In the data presented, one article is omitted: *Data and Experience Design: Negotiating Community-Oriented Digital Research with Service Learning* (volume 6). This article produced outlier metrics and has been excluded from this report. This article has an unexplained exceptionally high rate of abstract views (n=53,780) and metadata page hits (n=61,161) within the Digital Commons and the PlumX analytics.
2. Metadata page hits on the Contents area of the website were omitted from this data set to emphasize interaction with the journal's publications.