

Scenario 7 - The Case of the Undergraduate Research Journal

The weather's started to turn cold in the last few days, the leaves on the trees around campus shading to a glorious deep orange-red as though they're trying to keep everyone warm. It isn't working, though, as the long line for coffee at the campus café makes clear.

You've only been there a few minutes when someone taps you on the shoulder.

"Excuse me," they say, "but your augment's public feed says you can help me with publishing and research?"

You half-turn, taking in their own public feed, which gives pronouns (he/him), his name (Arthur du Bois), and his role on campus (a tenured history professor).

"You bet," you say. "What's up?"

"We've been talking in the department about starting up an undergraduate research journal. Is that the sort of thing you do?"

A research journal!

You've always wanted to help create one. Coffee forgotten, you turn the rest of the way around. "It certainly could be! Why don't you tell me more about what you have in mind?"

"Well, that's what I was hoping to talk to you about," Arthur says. "We know we want it to be easy for people to download and read the articles, but we aren't sure if the university even has anything we can use to put them up online. And then there's peer review. Do we need to just use email for that, or is there a better way?"

"To be honest," he admits, "we have so many questions we barely know where to start."

"It's definitely a complicated process," you say. "So, let's see..."

Scenario 8 Resources

Kaye Hensley, M. (n.d.). *Undergraduate research journals @ UIUC: An introductory guide*.

https://www.library.illinois.edu/sc/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2017/06/URJournalsGuide_final.pdf

This practical guide from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library lays out what to consider when starting an undergraduate research, and highlights some of the benefits of this type of journal for students. Includes sections on planning, creating, marketing and distributing the journal, as well as costs and other things to keep in mind.

Madan, C., & Teitge, B. (2013). The benefits of undergraduate research: The student's perspective. *The Mentor: An Academic Advising Journal*, 15. <https://doi.org/10.26209/MJ1561274>

Written by a Ph.D. candidate and a Master's student, this very short article provides a unique viewpoint into the debate about whether and how undergraduate research journals and similar initiatives help students. The authors ultimately argue that undergraduate students should be involved in research as early as possible in their academic career.

Taylor, P., & Wilding, D. (n.d.). *Rethinking the values of higher education - the student as collaborator and producer? Undergraduate research as a case study*. The Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate

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<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> — Work creator: Stewart Baker

Research, University of Warwick. <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/433/2/Undergraduate.pdf>

Taylor and Wilding draw from existing studies to argue that the metaphor of student as "consumer" of higher education should be replaced by a focus on engaging students directly and fully in the production of research. They discuss several models for student engagement in higher education, and comment on their process of creating an undergraduate journal at the University of Warwick, including how they avoided common problems and made the journal successful.

Weiner, S. A., & Watkinson, C. (2014). What do students learn from participation in an undergraduate research journal? Results of an assessment. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 2(2). <http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.1125>

This research-based article presents a very thorough review of an undergraduate research journal at Purdue University, including discussion of the journal creation and maintenance process. The authors surveyed student authors and students who submitted rejected papers, as well as student editorial board members and faculty advisors, about their experiences with the journal. The results, reported here, are very useful for anyone looking to start an undergraduate research journal.