

Editorial

By Randy Townsend

The first published content in the *GW Journal of Ethics in Publishing* marks the starting line for conversations that shape the publishing industry. The idea of a student-run journal focused on publishing ethics is an exciting concept that speaks to several key areas supporting the industry. The complexity of issues that feed into misconduct and questionable behavior are often hidden behind the walls of confidentiality and historic taboos that deconstruct the publisher's brand reputation. In recent years, publishers have become more comfortable sharing experiences and agreeing on practices that present consistent interpretations of scenarios and a framework for thinking through circumstances introduced into evolving landscapes.

The students of George Washington University's Masters of Professional Studies in Publishing program share a unique vantage point, reflecting industry newcomers, experienced professionals and all segments in between. For many, the *GW Journal of Ethics* is their first opportunity to gain practical experience applying lessons they've learned in the classroom. This includes copyrights and permissions, peer review management, schedules, and deadlines.

On another hand, they are learning the business and strategy of launching and managing a journal from its inception. This involves acquiring EISSN, registering for a DOI, and understanding marketing personas and segments. Decisions about the publishing platform to use and the creation and determination of a logo design aligned with the broader university marketing guidelines are just two examples that demonstrate student input.

The tale of our journey is, indeed, interesting. With a dedicated editorial board of industry leaders, we've guided the students through discussions to establish long-term strategies. This includes a framework for cycling in future

cohorts and allowing space for them to incorporate the latest standards and features, keeping our journal and the content valuable and accessible. Much has been accomplished, but there is still much to do.

Some early contributors have already moved on in different directions, but their fingerprints will remain a part of the journal legacy. While celebrating graduations and new careers, we've welcomed new voices with new ideas that picked up and carried on.

The early support from the Society for Scholarly Publishers (SSP) demonstrates an unwavering commitment from the publishing community that is invaluable. Access and exposure position the students and contributors to expand networks, connect with industry leaders and have conversations that advance the way in which we safeguard content.

I am grateful for the many friends, colleagues, professionals, organizations, and alumni that continually express a desire to support the students and the journal. The first pieces of published content advance ethical conversations and challenge traditional 'business as usual' approaches to safeguarding content, representing contributions from students and professionals. I hope that they inspire respectful discussions that we can grow from together. I sincerely thank you for exploring our journal and invite you to consider submitting your own research, ideas, and voices to the *GW Journal of Ethics in Publishing*. Please continue to watch this space.

Respectfully,

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