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Introduction - Growth, OLAQ Spring 2015 Vol 20 Issue 1

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Introduction

As an amateur home gardener, spring makes me think of trees budding, bulbs sprouting, and a bright new shade of green on the tips of the conifers surrounding our beautiful, rugged landscape here in Central Oregon. How fitting then, to make the theme of our spring issue a one-word summary of the season: growth.

This issue looks at growth from many perspectives and at many different levels. Melissa Little tackles growth from a personal, individual perspective with a focus on how managers can better support the professional development of their employees. Charles Wood expands the notion of development to a public library in his profile of Aloha Community Library, one of Oregon's newest additions to the library landscape. Lindsay Slater turns her lens on growth toward young students and the promotion of summer reading programs. Finally, our incoming OLA president, Jane Corry, brings it all back around with an engaging piece on how specific OLA members—including yours truly—have grown through involvement with our local library association.

This issue's theme resonates for me personally as my own little institution stands on the brink of enormous growth. The Cascades campus of Oregon State University will transform over the summer from a two-year branch to a four-year university. The site of our future buildings is currently sand, rock, juniper and pine trees. Over the next couple decades, we will become Oregon's newest university location in Bend with hopefully, possibly—a library of our own one day. How much of that will be physical? How much will be digital? The answers remain to be seen.

Just as spring is a transitional season, balanced between the chill of winter and the warmth of summer, so is growth a transition by its very definition. In order to recognize growth, we have to know where we are coming from and be aware of changes as they are happening. The most amazing thing about growth is the inherent potential. What will the seed become? What fruit will this new sprout produce? Looking at today's growth can give us some clues about what to expect in the near future. I invite you to join me in exploring the various facets of growth presented by our authors in the following pages and enjoy the new beginnings offered by this wonderful season. Happy Spring!

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