



EDITORIAL

# Make the Most of Your State Public Health Journal

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Back in 2016, the journal *Nature* published an article entitled “Scientific Literature: Information Overload.”<sup>1</sup> In this article, the author described the increasing challenge for researchers who aim to stay current with regard to trends and findings in their areas of specialization, as a result of the continual growth in the number of potential resources. One example provided in this article is that PubMed indexes more than 1 million new papers per year.

Recommended strategies which scholars might use to stay current in their knowledge include development of team and self-curation processes, reliance on high quality blogs, or use of researcher-developed aggregators that identify and sort new publications. The creator of one such aggregation system noted it required daily commitment of 2 to 3 hours of review time to scan newly published papers of interest.<sup>1</sup> In the years since the *Nature* article was published, the number of scientific publications has continued to increase on an annual basis,<sup>2</sup> so it might reasonably be assumed that staying current with published research in a given field has become progressively more time-consuming. More recently, scholars have explored use of machine learning<sup>3</sup> to identify and organize newly published research. Undoubtedly, many scholars are also exploring use of generative artificial intelligence models to help them rapidly gain, identify, and learn from new publications in their respective areas of interest.

My aim with this editorial is not to dissuade publications or discourage scholars but rather to encourage all of *Ohio Journal of Public Health's* (OJPH) public health-engaged readers to consider developing and submitting publishable papers to OJPH. Because many things that impact the range of Ohioan's health opportunities and outcomes are influenced by local and regional contexts, OJPH presents a unique opportunity for the community of Ohio-based public health scholars and practitioners to develop our own state-specific curated research resource. At present, OJPH is a reliable, current, open access source for information about programs, trends, and other information related to a variety of interests related to public health research, practice, and education in Ohio. With increasing author support, the range of information available in OJPH can continue to expand.

As described in the Op-Ed contributed by editorial assistant Michael Anguilano, which is also the final paper included in Volume 5, Issue 2 of OJPH, local health departments in Ohio have a mandate to earn accreditation, and accreditation standards include the requirement to “use and contribute to developing research.”<sup>4</sup>(p238) Clearly, some local health departments in Ohio have a history of participating in and publishing research; examples are readily available for readers who search the archives of this journal. However, an increase in submissions from local health departments, and other nonacademic organizations, would be a welcome trend for OJPH.

In closing, I challenge you all to make the most of the potential of your state public health journal to improve public health in this state, by sharing the benefits of your knowledge, successes, and lessons learned with the community of public health professionals in Ohio.



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