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## A Few Words and a Brief Recap of the JPTRCA's Journey

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## **A Few Words and a Brief Recap of the JPTRCA's Journey**

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Welcome to the first volume of the Journal of the Patent and Trademark Resource Center Association published on the Clemson University TigerPrints platform. As editor of the Journal, it's my privilege to point out some features of the Journal and explain how and why the JPTRCA began publishing at Clemson, with volume 29.

The PTRCA is an association for Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) representatives. In libraries all across the country, valuable resources – research spaces, computers, and dedicated librarians – have been put into service of patent and trademark research. These are called Patent and Trademark Resource Centers, participating in a program administered through the public services arm of the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Those of us fortunate to hold the role of PTRC Representative see it as our shared responsibility to extend and deepen the public's knowledge of intellectual property research and education. Our colleagues around the nation attend annual seminar trainings at the USPTO in Alexandria, Va., hold outreach workshops at the local level, and assist researchers at our home institutions. Some of these researchers are inventors, others are tinkerers, and still others are attorneys. There are more than 80 such locations in the United States.

The PTRC Association has published a newsletter about and for the various PTRCs for many years. A review of newsletters on the association Website ([www.ptrca.org](http://www.ptrca.org)) has indexed publications back to 2000-01, when the association was still named the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association. (Earlier issues will be added in the coming weeks.)

In 2013, the newsletter editors began asking for contributed articles as well. It was a beginning of sorts, the transformation towards a publication with the look, feel, and objectives of an open-access academic journal. The 2013-14 edition included five contributed articles written by librarians across the

PTRC network. One of the authors in that edition, Rob Berry, was a research librarian at Sacred Heart University then. Today he is the Director of the Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program office at the USPTO.

The journal continues to be published on the PTRC Association Website, where contributed articles appear alongside the annual newsletter, comprising shorter notes from various PTRCs in the network. This remains the case even after migrating to TigerPrints. The newsletter will be published primarily on the association Website and links to contributed articles will redirect readers here.

So how did we get here? In mid-2017, the PTRCA publications committee began working on new submission guidelines, with the goal of formalizing submission standards, providing more information to authors, and making the submission process more efficient. This work was undertaken by David Zwicky, librarian at Purdue University; Suzanne Reinman, librarian at Oklahoma State University; Jan Comfort, librarian at Clemons University; and myself.

The results of those efforts came to completion before the 2018 call for submissions, which was made in October of that year. As we deployed the call for submissions, we concurrently began working on identifying an online space to house the contributed articles. We found a great partner in Clemson University, which provided staff time to train the editors of JPTRCA on the new system and who were, generally, just really helpful and professional. They provided a sandboxed journal site to us, a place to experiment with the various settings, tableaus, and CSS coding prior to taking the site live.

We have found that the TigerPrints platform is an excellent publication repository, with a suite of tools for managing the flow of submissions, and the assignation of DOIs, which was one of our primary requirements. It is highly scalable platform, integrated with the rest of the TigerPrints community and also indexed by Google Scholar. This will certainly bring more exposure to the journal, as Google Scholar is one of the major scholarly indexes used by academics and researchers, the world over. As the current editor, I expect and hope that the new platform will create long-term opportunities for the publication – new exposure, ease of access, greater discoverability, and redundancy of storage for our published works – which will draw in a larger circle of potential scholars and writers. In the coming months we will begin

back-loading scholarly articles published between 2013 and 2019. We hope you find the JPTRCA helpful to your research in intellectual property.

Thank you for reading the JPTRCA.