

Dear CJUR Readers and Subscribers,

Since June of 1992, the Canadian Journal of Urban Research (CJUR) has published top quality articles by some of our country's leading authors. Over this time, the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg has remained the home of CJUR, supporting operations and managing production and editorial staff. It is with much sadness that this issue will be the last to be printed and bound for distribution.

After a quarter of a century of publishing, the field has changed dramatically for academic journals like CJUR. This has included the transition to online databases with instant access but limited revenues for small journals. Unfortunately, the new funding model has gravely impacted our operations with fewer and fewer subscribers willing to pay for hard copies.

In addition to ceasing to print hard copies, CJUR will no longer be collecting subscription fees. We have decided to shift our journal production and distribution to a completely online environment.

We have opted to take this path despite it not having a viable revenue base to support our operations. However, this measure will help offset some of our costs but it is not a long term solution.

Over the coming year, we will work to explore funding options that include author contributions. For some, this has become a concern, but for small journals, modest authorship fees have become the replacement for dwindling subscribership bases. As well, we will explore other means to secure funding to cover our costs which at present amount to one full-time person and a part-time editor. Like most journals, CJUR also relies on our countless peer reviewers and supporters who ensure that our research is of the highest quality.

What is most disheartening about the new realities of the digital world is despite upwards of 100,000 CJUR articles being downloaded annually and read by our global audience there is no model to support our modest production costs.

In closing, this year will be an important year for CJUR. Our objective remains to have a long term solution to ensure that we move well beyond our 25th year of publishing some of Canada's most widely read urban academic literature. I welcome any feedback and ideas. Please feel free to contact me personally to discuss further.

Respectfully,

Jino

Dr. Jino Distasio
Director, Institute of Urban Studies &
Managing Director of the Canadian Journal of Urban Research
The University of Winnipeg

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF URBAN RESEARCH

Revue canadienne de recherche urbaine

Volume 24, Issue 2, Winter 2015

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