

Novice Contributor Tells All

In the five and a half years of this journal's life so far, we have published approximately 100 Critical Reviews, 30 Columns, 40 Essays, 15 Peer Reviewed Articles, and 30 Bibliographic Essays.

Other than writing my share of Editorials since 2008, my own contributions have been largely on the administrative and editing side of the operation.

Until now.

It's been most instructive for me to contribute something more directly to the content of the journal with this current issue. (I was asked to review Peter Suber's *Open Access*.) Apart from the benefit of reading this really fine, short introduction to an important topic, it was a good exercise for me to try and capture the essence of the work, and then offer a concise summary and a few evaluative remarks.

What's more, it has helped me look at our online process with fresh eyes. I'm pretty well at home at this point shepherding the contributions of *others* through the various stages of the process, from initial submission through to final publishing. But what impressed me as a first-time *author* was how sensible and how easy it was to get my initial draft uploaded to theolib.org, and then wait for responses, first from the section editor and then from the proofreader.

I've written plenty of reviews elsewhere (*CHOICE*, *The Christian Century*, *Theology Today*, etc.) and am pleased to report that the editorial processes here at *TL* are at least as good (i.e., stringent, serious) and as pleasant as any other place I have written. This came as no surprise to me, yet it's valuable to know that this is true, from my own experience as a *TL* author.

Now that I've joined the ranks of *TL* authors myself, I invite you to do so as well. It's another (challenging but greatly rewarding) way of participating in the conversation of our vocational community.

Stuck for a topic? Ask us about writing a Critical Review, where the topic is more or less taken care of for you. Alternately, here are some subjects I would love to see us explore during 2014:

- Digital Humanities projects and initiatives in theological libraries
- Vocational pathways into theological librarianship
- Thought leaders in technological change (Marshall McLuhan, Neil Postman, Walter Ong, Albert Borgmann, etc.)

And your own ideas and proposals are of course always welcome.

Thank you for reading,

DRS

