A key goal of DBS Business Review is to facilitate a robust and dynamic scholarly communication across business schools in Ireland and beyond, including non-cognate disciplines. The journal also aims to infuse these conversations with ideas and submissions from professionals, practitioners and industry experts. It is intended that the cross-fertilisation of this broader conversation will spark new insights and innovations as well as foster enthusiasm, humanity and creativity within the business community. …(Morgan and O’Neill, 2017)

Since the publication of the first issue of DBS Business Review, the journal has achieved a number of milestones. The journal is now indexed on the Directory of Open Access Journals and on international EBSCO and ProQuest databases. International engagement with the journal continues to grow. Editorial and Advisory Boards now include members from Metropolitan University London, Manchester Business School, The American College of Greece and the University of Granada.

The second issue of the journal maintains a rich and varied scholarly communication with submissions on a wide range of topics from a variety of contributors including academics, academic managers and leaders, practitioners, librarians and students from institutions such as Trinity College Dublin, Ulster University, the Swiss Business School, Dublin Business School and the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (now part of the new Technological University). Topics span cutting edge subject areas with unique focuses geographically, technically and in terms of industry type such as dark tourism in Northern Ireland; data analytics and SMEs (as opposed to large corporations); consumer behaviour in the private higher education sector; social media as a teaching tool; social and psychological (as opposed to employment) outcomes in Springboard programmes and copycat restaurants (as opposed to copycat clothing). This issue also includes a scoping review which is more traditionally associated with the health sciences field but is highly beneficial in the business discipline.
Industry input into the journal remains high with an article on faking good in interviews by Dr Gerry Fahey, Principle of OD Solutions, formerly employed in senior management roles at the Irish Dairy Board and Bord Failte. The issue also includes an interview with Ann Chapman, Founder and Managing Director of Stonechat and winner of ‘Jewellery Store of the Year’ at the Retail Excellence Ireland awards 2018. Developments in relation to teaching and learning are an important focus of the Editorial Team. Consequently, the latest issue of the journal incorporates a new teaching and learning section comprising a case study of an initiative between Microsoft Ireland and DBS. There is also practitioner update from a graduate of Dublin Business School, Ben Doyle, on the new Central Credit Register. Ben is now employed in the banking sector.

The content of the journal has also expanded this year to capture sector wide discourse on a range of developments via a Developments in Higher Education Section which includes informative and thought provoking reflections on the new technological university by Dr Joseph Ryan, CEO of the Technological Universities Association, and by Dr Terry Maguire, Director of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, and Dr Tony Murphy, Head of Quality Enhancement in Teaching & Learning at Dublin Business School, on the Forum’s Review of the Existing Higher Policy Landscape for Digital Teaching and Learning in Ireland. The area of apprenticeship programmes is explored by Siobhan Magner, Education and Training Boards Ireland, and Naomi Jackson, Dean of Academic Affairs CCT College and Education Consultant.

The journal continues to stimulate discussion via the inclusion of an opinion piece annually which in this issue is written by Dr Orna Farrell, National Institute for Digital Learning (NIDL) based in Dublin City University, on the underutilization of e-portfolios in the Irish Education sector. There is an insightful book review on Altmetrics as a complement to traditional citation impact measures by Jane Burns, Head of Library Services at Athlone Institute of Technology. Jane is also an Altmetrics Ambassador for Ireland. The issue also includes a book review by Enda Murphy, Lecturer in Business at DBS, on Saving Capitalism by Robert Reich. The open access nature of DBS Business Review is a critical factor toward the success of the publication and provides a transparency and accessibility to the academic discourse generated by the journal. The richness and contemporaneous nature of this dialogue is also indicative of a robust engagement with the journal by the higher education and business sectors in Ireland. The annual production of DBS Review is complemented by an event to mark its publication. Discourse stimulated by the journal is further contemplated in front of a live audience drawn from the higher education and business sectors.

Morgan and O’Neill (2017) describe DBS Business Review as being ‘a new open access publishing platform within disciplines of business and law for the diverse range of research-active agents across the sector: students, faculty, librarians, academic management and practitioners.’ Student research is often relegated to dedicated student publications but in DBS Business Review student content is both encouraged
and welcomed at an early stage in students’ thesis work either as co-published content or independently authored work. This year’s issue contains an independently authored work by DBS recent graduate Audrey Brewer, now Digital Marketing Manager for Camile Thai. There are also a number of co-authored pieces between faculty and a number of Masters/PhD students.

Digital technology is no longer viewed as a mere tool in the support of organizations, but rather as a disruptor that will create new organisations and replace many unwilling players (Scott, Loon am and Kumar, 2017) and the second issue of DBS Business Review is recognising this transformative change in both industry and academia with a number of articles pertaining to technology. The issue includes articles on data analytics, e-portfolios, social media, the National Forum’s Higher Policy Landscape for Digital Teaching and Learning in Ireland and more. This has informed and shaped the topic of the Panel’s discussion at the journal event which will be ‘Education and Technology, Preparing the 21st Century Graduate for the Modern Workplace.’

At the very heart of DBS Business Review is a dynamic partnership between librarians and faculty. The Editor-in-Chief is an academic and the Managing Editor a librarian. The Editorial Board also comprises librarians and academics from across the sector. This year, DBS Library became one of just two members nationally of the international Library Publishing Coalition and are now listed in the Coalition’s Library Publishing Directory. DBS Library has also launched a Library Publishing Press in which DBS Business Review now sits. The benefits of librarian/academic collaboration are numerous. Buggle (2017) states:

The publishing role of academic libraries has been a natural development. Libraries have provided a comprehensive range of research supports to faculty including provision of guidance on getting published, bibliometrics, copyright and author rights, funding sources and applications, archiving on institutional repositories and preservation. Librarians have the technical know-how to manage a variety of platforms, to apply metadata to ensure maximum visibility, and they already have established relationships with the electronic database vendors who can aggregate new content via their discovery tools.

The international open science movement which includes open access publishing is also a key priority for the Irish Government. Open skills training has been recognized as being critical for researchers, academics and librarians. Europa in a recently published Open Science Skills Working Group Report states that:

Open Science is transformative to the research landscape, allowing research to be carried out with a high degree of transparency, collegiality, and research integrity. For Open Science to become a reality researchers need appropriate discipline-dependent skills training and professional development at all stages of their research careers.

Participation in an open skills publishing project such as DBS Business Review furthers this type of professional development activity.

Ayris and Ignat (2018) envisage librarians as playing a pivotal role in the open science movement, stating that ‘Open Science represents new ways for society to engage with
science. It is revolutionary in its ambition and libraries have a core role to play in supporting its success.’

The open access nature of DBS Business Review has increased relevance in light of the recently announced Plan S, a European wide initiative which stipulates that the research outputs of all publicly funded research must be available on open access by 2020. Science Europe describes Plan S as:

After 1 January 2020 scientific publications on the results from research funded by public grants provided by national and European research councils and funding bodies, must be published in compliant Open Access Journals or on compliant Open Access Platforms.

There are twenty Irish open access journals indexed on the DOAJ, including DBS Business Review. These journals represent a powerful portal for publically funded European research. Support from relevant agencies and stakeholders within the sector to position these journals as such is critical in the context of Plan S. DBS Business Review welcomes submissions from a range of stakeholders including the research outputs of funded projects.

References


