
Preface

The past few years have been characterized by changes in almost any field one may care to name. Certainly, there have been profound changes in the ways we approach and manage libraries and provide basic library services, such as bibliographic control, document delivery, preservation, and planning for physical facilities. The profession has also become more and more aware of changes in the international world of librarianship, which are beginning to affect us as communications networks link us more closely to the world beyond the American continent. In addition, most practitioners in the profession are probably aware of the ongoing and often painful changes in librarianship's educational process.

Articles in this volume of *Advances in Librarianship* address aspects of some of these changes, placing them in historical context, bringing forward new facets, or suggesting new goals or directions.

In the lead article, *Westling* discusses the accelerating evolution of traditional interlibrary loan services into a full range of document delivery options. She suggests a model for the future in which all available avenues for document acquisitions and all available delivery options, from traditional to "high tech," will be utilized, with the most efficient pathway defined by the user within desired cost and time parameters.

Cooperative cataloging programs, credited with improving access to information while greatly reducing costs, have generally been accepted as one of the most successful collaborative library projects in the history of librarianship. *Mandel*, after restating underlying premises, provides a detailed history of the development, successes, and as yet unresolved problems of a program that has profoundly affected the art and science of bibliographic control, ending with a review of current goals and models that will need to be aligned in order to realize its still greater potential.

Claiming that its economic benefits have been eroded by an antiquated distribution system, *Culkin* takes to task one of the major structures underpinning cooperative cataloging efforts. In discussing the MARC format, the record structure developed by the Library of Congress to facilitate communication and transfer of bibliographic data, she suggests that a more auto-

mated distribution model, by forcing change in the distribution paradigm, would gain efficiencies in local processing while freeing funds for increased direct procurement of materials—a win-win situation for all players, except perhaps the utilities.

At a time when increases in information and knowledge resources coupled with budget cuts push libraries to expand services, even while staff size is stable or even decreasing, “inventing the future and strategic directions for the library and making them happen are awesome responsibilities,” according to *Riggs*. He discusses how strategic management, coupled with the concepts of TQM (total quality management), provides an approach or “way of life” which, while no panacea, promises an opportunity for improving job satisfaction, and library services and products, in favorable as well as unfavorable financial climates.

Digital technology and its implications for library planning, and particularly space planning, are discussed by *Horny*, who reviews current projects which attempt to measure the costs and quality of conversion and storage utilizing various methodologies. She covers access, retrieval, and communication issues and concludes by listing a series of questions that need to be addressed by those planning for future library buildings and/or the “virtual library” of the future.

While preservation activities in libraries have generally been accepted as necessary and beneficial, there are few examples in the literature of actual cost models which provide formulae for translating general benefits into actual dollars and cents savings. *Silverman* discusses a preventive conservation strategy that suggests a conceptual shift in using existing resources—buying and reinforcing trade paperbacks versus buying hardbacks—that has resulted in savings at a particular institution that benefit both collection development and preservation efforts.

Library education has arrived at a crossroad in the last few years, with many graduate library programs closing, some being rethought and revitalized, and the entire present accreditation process coming under severe criticism. *Hurt*, dean of the graduate library school at the University of Arizona, after reviewing the history of library education in the United States, incisively bares current problems and presents the challenging choices we have in moving ahead—or becoming obsolete.

A European perspective is provided by *Grau* and *Gonzalo*, who, in discussing documentary sources and reference works in the library/documentation department of the Spanish parliament, open a window on the sophisticated information networks emerging in the European Communities. The detail provided will suggest comparisons, and will also make this article a useful source for further research.