This issue is the first that appears following my appointment as editor of
Library Resources and Technical Services, for a five-year term, following my
one year appointment as interim editor. I’m truly honored to be selected to con-
tinue in the position that I have found stimulating, challenging, and enjoyable. I’m
very pleased to announce that Edward Swanson has accepted an appointment to
continue as book review editor, a position he held on an interim basis as well.

Papers in this issue speak to many interests. Martha M. Yee surveys the cat-
aloging literature to identify problems with the MARC 21 format. She sorts the
problems into categories, resulting in one set of problems that she calls “true
MARC 21 problems.” Yee then offers recommendations to address these prob-
lems. She notes the sophisticated system that we have developed to link and
demonstrate relationships, which facilitate resource retrieval.

Whitney Baker explores the challenging positions held by those library pro-
fessionals whom she calls “hybrid” conservators. A hybrid conservator is respon-
sible for both oversight of batched, mass production treatments (usually for
circulating collections) and the execution of single-item treatments (usually for
special collections). Fulfilling these two performance expectations can stress and
stretch a conservator, yet combining the roles is not uncommon. Baker concludes
with advice on balancing the demands of both responsibilities.

“Zines and the Library,” by Richard A. Stoddart and Teresa Kiser, takes us
into the realm of collection development and management, while touching on
cataloging, access, and preservation challenges presented by these unique mate-
rials. While zines are not within the scope of every library’s collection develop-
ment plan, Stoddart and Kiser encourage us not to reject them simply because
they represent alternative perspectives and cultures. The authors unspoken mes-
 sage is that we may be guilty of unintentional censorship when we fail to select a
range of materials that fully represents a pluralistic society. Stoddart and Kiser
located the cover art for this issue.

We are going “global” with a paper by Jutta Frommeyer. I hope all LRTS
readers, not just catalogers, will look at her analysis of chronological terms and
period subdivisions in three different subject systems used around the world.
The ease with which catalogs can be searched internationally and the potential
of combining searches across catalogs mean that we need to give serious atten-
tion to the lack of consistency that ultimately will baffle users.

Finally, I’m very excited to republish an award-winning essay by Ross
Atkinson, first published in LRTS in 1992. Atkinson has revisited the themes of
his essay on the acquisitions librarian as a change agent and written an introd-
tory essay that considers how the environment and his perspective have changed.

I hope you enjoy this issue. I have certainly enjoyed working with the
authors to assemble it.