



Editorial

Peggy Johnson

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 continue 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 cataloging 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 problems. 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 professionals whom she calls "hybrid" conservators. A hybrid conservator is responsible 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 materials. While zines are not within the scope of every library's collection development plan, Stoddart and Kiser encourage us not to reject them simply because they represent alternative perspectives and cultures. The authors unspoken message 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 attention 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 introductory 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.