

Editorial: Transitions

Peggy Johnson, Editor

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*L*ibrary Resources and Technical Services (*LRTS*), the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) peer-reviewed journal, is supported by an editorial board. The charge to the *LRTS* board is “to advise the editor on matters relating to editorial policies and journal content, and to assist in the selection of contributors and the evaluation of manuscripts.”¹ The success of a scholarly journal depends on its board as much as it does on authors submitting high-quality papers. *LRTS* board members are responsible for reviewing papers submitted to *LRTS*. Peer review has a lengthy history dating back to 1665, when the Royal Society implemented the first peer-reviewing or refereeing system to evaluate papers submitted to the British Royal Society’s *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society.

LRTS uses a double-blind peer review—the reviewers do not know the names or affiliations of the authors whose manuscripts they are evaluating and authors do not know who the reviewers are. This is to ensure unbiased review.

As editor, I assign papers to board members for review on the basis of their areas of expertise. They evaluate the submission in several areas: relevance to the aims and scope of *LRTS*, documentation of sources and background information, research methods (if a report of research), and presentation. Reviewers consider the strength and logical structure of the paper and the significance of the topic to the reader. I encourage reviewers to conduct substantive editing and recommend high-level revisions to the content and organization. We aim for a timely response to author; reviewers have three weeks to complete their work, and I try to complete my responsibilities within three weeks of receiving reviews.

Several board members who have been superb paper reviewers and *LRTS* advisors left the editorial board following the 2012 ALA Annual Conference. They are Allyson Carlyle (Continuing Resources Section representative), Leslie Czechowski (Collection Management Section representative), and members-at-large Lewis Brian Day, October R. Ivins, Edgar A. Jones, Randy Roeder, Carlen Ruschoff, and Sarah Simpson (all of whom served two two-years terms), and Rebecca L. Mugridge, who completed her one-year term as an intern. All have actively solicited submissions during their tenure. Their diligence and energy will be missed.

Continuing board members are Steven B. Carrico, Steven A. Knowlton, Birdie MacLennan, Anne M. Sleeman, Elaine L. Westbrooks, Elise Thall Calvi (Preservation and Reformatting Section representative), Lori Terrill (Cataloging and Metadata Management Section representative), and Lynn N. Wiley (Acquisitions Section representative). Also continuing on the board are Norm Medeiros (*LRTS* Book Review Editor) and Alice Platt (*ALCTS Newsletter Online* Editor).

New members joining the board after the 2012 Annual Conference are Julian Everett Allgood (Continuing Resources Section representative), David Banush, Sian Dorian Brannon (Collection Management Section representative), Christopher J. Cronin, Nadine Ellero, Andrew S. Hart, Philip E. Schruer, Michele Seikel, and Oksana Zavalina (as intern).

A significant transition will occur during the next six months. Mary Beth Weber has been appointed as the new *LRTS* editor. Weber is head of central technical services at Rutgers University Libraries and has been a member of ALCTS since 1986. She edited *ALCTS Newsletter Online (ANO)* from 2004 to 2010 and is the author of four books and many peer-reviewed articles. Weber and I will work closely together until she officially assumes her responsibilities as editor in January 2013.

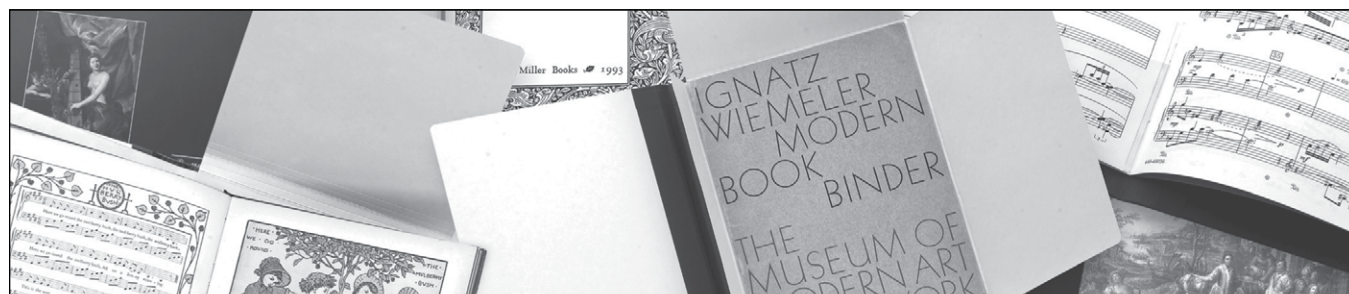
Fortunately, we do not expect a transition in another position essential to producing an excellent journal. Tim Clifford, our production editor (American Library Association Production Services), ensures that each issue is copy-edited and laid out for publication on schedule. He patiently explains nuances of grammar and style that can mystify me. Clifford is now working in both the print world and the digital world as we offer the familiar print journal and the new e-version of *LRTS*. Please visit the *eLRTS* website (alcts.metapress.com) if you have not done so. Christine McConnell in the ALCTS office provides us another form of stability. Christine has oversight of ALCTS publications and

is ALCTS staff liaison to the editorial board. She has worked diligently to implement *eLRTS*.

I cannot close my last editorial for *LRTS* without a few personal observations. "Lately it occurs to me what a long, strange trip it's been." I became *LRTS* editor in April 2003 and never thought that I would keep that position for more than nine years. I have worked with fabulous editorial board members, outstanding authors, and excellent staff. During my tenure, we implemented an online editorial management system and, recently, *eLRTS*. I read 367 submissions and shepherded some 45 percent to publication. I learned about the challenges that librarians face and the solutions they are developing, was introduced to new areas of research, and learned from papers written by experts who have challenged our assumptions. But it is time for me to move on "for the times they are a-changin'."

Reference

1. Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, LRTS Editorial Board, www.ala.org/alcts/mgrps/cmtes/ats-lrts (accessed June 9, 2012).



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