

# Editorial

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## “Year’s Work” to “State of the Art”

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It has been almost a year since I was appointed editor of *LRTS*. It has been a year replete with learning and accomplishments—the latter, it must be noted, through the outstanding efforts of authors and referees. *LRTS* Editorial Board members as well as the previous editor, Richard Smiraglia, and the ALCTS Executive Director, Karen Muller, have provided me with invaluable advice, guiding me through a thicket of issues.

Last year, the ALCTS Board voted to return the “Year’s Work in ...” series to *LRTS*. As editor, I started but then halted a search for an issue editor to direct the traditional issue of “Year’s Work ...,” to allow further development of the “Year’s Work” concept by the *LRTS* Editorial Board. Subsequently, at the next Midwinter Meeting (January 1998), the *LRTS* Board created a plan for a series of articles that would report on areas of interest, specifically collection development and management, acquisitions, cataloging and classification, preservation and reformatting, and serials. The characteristics of the articles will preserve the best of the “Year’s Work” while allowing a new flexibility designed to support the writing of outstanding articles.

The focus will be on thoughtful report-

ing, discussion, and analysis of national and international issues, trends, and events recognized as important to the field. Sources included may be drawn from the most appropriate time period without being restricted to only the past year. Selectivity in the citation of sources will be encouraged to emphasize the critical development of themes and topics. In recognition that the single function or format boundaries underlying the definition of ALCTS sections may often be blurred and interwoven in practice, a disciplinary or interdisciplinary approach (or topic) may be chosen. Instead of appearing together in the July issue of *LRTS*, the articles will be published individually and episodically. This is important for the selection of the best authors (and their schedules) as well as the ability to take snapshots and report on significant topics in a timely manner.

Last, with advice from the *LRTS* Board, I will solicit manuscripts from authors respected for their expertise, although the paper, when submitted, will be subject to the double blind review process. Although a recommendation to publish is generally expected, the review process may well result in recommendations for improvement.