



## Editorial

Peggy Johnson

With this issue, *LRTS* begins publishing the annual periodicals pricing reports, previously published in *Library Journal* and, for ten years, in *American Libraries*. ALCTS has posted the reports for 1999 through 2002, which first appeared in *American Libraries*, on the ALCTS Web site, [www.ala.org/alcts](http://www.ala.org/alcts). These can be located in the section “Resources,” within “Publications.” Brenda Dingley is the author of this report and analysis of periodicals pricing in 2002. To help set the context for this report, *LRTS* presents three articles (by Pamela Bluh, James G. Neal, and J. Randolph Call), first presented at the Annual Conference in 2002, that consider the topic of predicting library materials pricing.

I am very excited about this issue, which offers articles addressing all the areas that fall within the realm of ALCTS: preservation, collections, acquisitions, serials, and cataloging. Kate Murray explores the dissemination of preservation information in the Republic of South Africa. This article, in addition to exploring the situation in South Africa, provides an opportunity to consider how preservationists share expertise, regardless of location. Brenda Dingley’s piece is relevant to collection development and management, as well as serials work. Certainly, no selector can make decisions about budgets, expenditures, and serials cancellations without drawing on pricing information. The articles by Bluh, Neal, and Call directly link pricing prediction to managing budgets for collections. The second article on serials, by Xiaoyin Zhang, gives an insider perspective on an initiative that has combined the management of print-based journals with that of electronic journals. William H. Walters explores the challenges that face libraries acquiring and managing video media. He places these within the context of the library in which he works, yet the problems faced are universal. Two articles address cataloging and demonstrate the wonderful variety of this specialty. Beth M. Russell looks at twenty years of special collections cataloging and the evolving expectations of this area. While some may be surprised that the cataloging of electronic resources has been with us long enough to have a history, Amy K. Weiss makes this clear as she explores the changes that cataloging rules and guidelines have undergone as we have sought to provide bibliographic access to e-resources. I find the variety of materials with which we work wonderfully documented in this issue. From special collections to video to print to electronic resources—we do it all!

Edward Swanson, Interim Book Review Editor, continues to look for potential reviewers. Contact him at [swans152@umn.edu](mailto:swans152@umn.edu) if you’d like to be numbered among the *LRTS* book reviewers. I would be delighted to hear from you. Let me know your view on *LRTS* and how we can better meet your professional needs and interests. Send me a note at [m-john@umn.edu](mailto:m-john@umn.edu).