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# From the Editor

Jennifer A. Younger

It has been my great pleasure to serve as the editor of *Library Resources & Technical Services*. Following in the footsteps of my distinguished predecessors who established *LRTS* as a research journal, I have had many opportunities to contribute to the growth of our profession. I leave with feelings of accomplishment and regret and shall miss all of you—authors, readers, and my editorial and production colleagues.

*LRTS* continues as a strong research journal as well as one with significant interests in innovative and unique developments in the field. In 1997 and again in 1999, the Jesse H. Shera Award for Distinguished Published Research, given by the American Library Association Library Research Round Table, was awarded to a *LRTS* author. The interests of *LRTS* members have been well served by the broad scope of published papers, including papers exploring patterns of interlibrary loan, the ethics of offshore data production, mutilation of art books, patron understanding of subject headings, and objectives of the catalog. We have all benefitted from their clear study, articulation, and reflections on important issues and our own subsequent understanding and use of their research and reports in improving services and operations in our own libraries.

From time to time, I heard people say that the journal is boring to read. This is not an unusual observation about a research journal with a diverse readership, nor should it be feared so long as the papers are of excellent quality. In a May 1996 *College & Research Libraries* editorial (vol. 57, no. 3), Gloriana St. Clair writes of hearing similar criticisms, but she

notes that letters to the editor are at complete odds with this sentiment. During the last four years, *LRTS* has published articles in collection management, acquisitions, cataloging and classification, preservation and reformatting, and serials, and it should come as no surprise to learn that there are papers of greater or lesser interest to individual readers. For every suggestion on what not to publish, there would be a balancing commendation from a reader who found an article on the same topic of special interest or assistance.

*LRTS* exists in an environment quite different than that of even four years ago. This new environment is characterized by, among other things, fewer submissions and greater competition. The number of manuscripts submitted has declined from the 293 reported by former editor Richard Smiraglia between 1991 and 1996 to 142 during the following four years of my term. Although I am pleased to report there has no accompanying decline in the quality of the articles in the journal, the lower numbers bear reporting. There are both new journals and journals with expanded scope vying for papers. Some papers are posted on the Web and never enter into the journal publishing stream. Journal editorial policies do not necessarily heed Eugene Garfield's advice that acknowledged Web posting need not inhibit subsequent publication in a journal, as the journal adds value in editorial review, indexing, and archiving. Thus some papers are lost to the journals. While the process of publishing will no doubt change significantly, the need to disseminate reliable and high quality information is unlikely to diminish, and the role of journals and

editors, however their work is accomplished, will increase in significance.

*LRTS* has a presence on the Web ([www.ala.org/alcts/lrts](http://www.ala.org/alcts/lrts)). The table of contents is posted for current and past volumes, as are indexes for recent volumes. Instructions for authors and book reviewers are readily available as is subscription information.

Every journal is a collective effort. I have been fortunate to work with editorial boards who were committed to excellence and gave generously of their time in refereeing papers. David Thomas, manuscript editor, learned the fine points of editing a research journal from Richard Smiraglia and served as the manuscript editor for all four years. His careful attention to clarity of expression and presentation of data ensured the readability characteristic of *LRTS*. Gregory Leazer and Margaret Rohdy were outstanding book review editors who selected diverse, timely, and significant books and recruited knowledgeable reviewers. At Notre Dame, Melodie Eiteljorge, senior administrative assistant, logged manuscripts and handled correspondence in a timely and efficient manner. The ALCTS officers and staff provided steady support for *LRTS* and smooth processing of invoices and payments. At ALA, Kevin Heubusch, Angela Hanshaw, and their predecessors, Christine Squires Taylor and Gwen Ihnat, formed the most cooperative and helpful production team any editor could possibly wish for, and I am deeply grateful for their work.

I wish every success to John Budd, who succeeds me as editor, and look forward to reading *LRTS* in the future.