

## Guest Editorial

The invitation from *C&RL*'s current editor to contribute reflections upon my four years as editor was accompanied by an assignment which proved to be impossible: "Select the article you thought the best during your term and write about it."

"Charles, I have reviewed the twenty-four issues I edited with approximately 125 articles and cannot single out one."

Reviewing the results of my watch revived many memories. First, of the many hours donated by the members of the editorial board acting as referees, by the book reviewers, and by the letter-to-the-editor writers. These labors in sum vastly exceeded the time spent by the editor, thus making *C&RL* a journal not only about but also by academic librarianship. My second memory is of the redesign—cover, typeface, logo. There were many surprises in this process, most owing to the interaction between postal regulations (title must be on the cover for a second class permit) and the National Serials Data Project (if only the logo were on the cover that would constitute the "dread serials title change"). The most pleasant surprise of the redesign was the discovery that the designer *inter alia* was a collector of ampersands—she had nearly a hundred from which I could choose. My third memory is the unfailing grace with which authors accepted editorial changes major and minor. I had expected more sensitivity, even ego, but experienced none. My fourth memory is of a failure to identify and secure enough acceptable articles on international aspects of this profession. The difficulty in this area was in equal parts the small number available and their quality. My fifth and, for this purpose, final memory is of the recurring themes of many articles juxtaposed with new topics, for example, status of academic librarians/academic libraries and computer centers.

Which brings me full circle to the current editor's request. "No, I can't select an article, but I can select an issue—my last, May 1984." The editorial in that issue noted that the articles it contained were chosen by the editor without the advice of his board. Taken together these articles reflected what has since become a pervasive concern with impact of technologies—computing and telecommunications—on academic libraries and librarians. Five years later the issues raised by those articles are neither passé nor resolved. Most of the technology therein discussed is now taken for granted, even as it continues to provoke questions. And the questions so provoked inevitably cause us to reflect anew on roles of libraries and of librarians. *Le plus c'est change, le plus c'est la même chose.*

C. JAMES SCHMIDT

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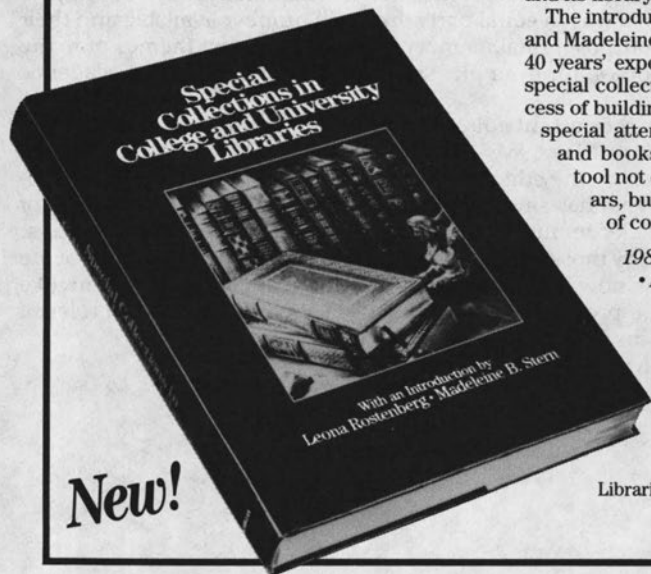
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