



# Guest Editorial

## Hello, Caledonia!

My tenure as editor began in 1974. In an initial editorial I called upon a *New Yorker* cartoon with its admonition: "I do think your problems are serious, Richard. They're just not very interesting." That was my first charge: Make an interesting journal. I noted the criticisms that library journals were not read and that research methodology was "strung out like so much wash."

Six years later I concluded my editorship. I cited another cartoon, Jeff MacNelly's *Shoe*. This time the criticism was of the editor: "The trouble with editors is they are always critical of anything we write. They're forever correcting and changing."

In those six years I received 772 manuscripts; with advice from the editorial board and other readers, I selected 229 for publication. My wish was that the articles could be both serious and interesting and that any changes or corrections I made would improve them. I have many happy memories of those six years: 1976 with ALA's centennial and a series of articles about 100 years of academic and research librarianship; 1978 with the first national ACRL conference and the theme papers filling the March 1979 issue.

Reviewing those thirty-six issues, I renewed acquaintances with many friends. I find it difficult to make a choice of just one to highlight. There are so many: Raffel on political factors in library decision making (November 1974); Balay and Andrew measuring reference service (January 1975); Spang with a superb case study of collective bargaining at Wayne State (March 1975); Voigt presenting a model formula for acquisition rates in university libraries (July 1975); Drake forecasting library growth (January 1976); Saracevic and his colleagues studying user frustrations (January 1977); Beach and Gapen considering book theft (March 1977); Watson on publishing by academic librarians (September 1977); Wingate questioning the undergraduate library (January 1978); Dickinson on participative management (July 1978); O'Connor and Van Orden with a seminal study on manuscript acceptance rates by library periodicals (September 1978); Miller and Rockwood on collection development in the college library (July 1979); Leighton and Buchanan telling about the Stanford library flood (September and November 1979).

While I look at and admire numerous articles, I keep returning to one. It came to me unannounced, a provocative and well-written document that proved an excellent addition to our September 1978 issue: F. Wilfrid Lancaster's "Whither Libraries? or, Wither Libraries." It served as the basis for additional related writings by the author and generated letters in our own journal as well as comments in other publications.

Looking to technological changes that would lead to the paperless society, Lancaster felt libraries must respond to this challenge if they were not to "wither." Responding myself, I was prepared to give up the printed page and what its beauty had meant to me. I was willing to accept the flickering image on the computer monitor with its unimaginative typewriter-like characters. Thus, in that issue I wrote my "Farewell to Caledonia." Caledonia is the name of the typeface we used then in *College & Research Libraries*. W. A. Dwiggins, its creator, also designed many handsome books. Working with his typeface, I felt close to a distinguished part of our heritage of print. But now that was to disappear.

Happily, the computer which posed a threat also presented an answer: We benefit from

the computer because we can format, store, and retrieve information. Now it also aids us in depicting that information, whether on the monitor or on paper. That depiction is not limited to the twenty-six letters of the alphabet and a group of numbers and symbols. Instead, we can store and print complex graphic images and format our text in a variety of typefaces.

With its achievements, the computer has not lead to a paperless society. Indeed, print on paper has had a resurgence. With the computer we become our own typographers and call upon a variety of typefaces, whether it be a basic Times Roman or a classic Baskerville or Garamond. Our beloved and once threatened typefaces are back, not in metal, but now in digital form.

Dolly Levi had been gone from her familiar New York City for many years, but her friends had not forgotten her. Arriving at the Harmonia Gardens, she was greeted by the waiters singing "It's so nice to have you back where you belong." So I sing my own "Hello, Caledonia! It's so nice to have you back where you belong."

RICHARD D. JOHNSON



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## Staying open to change.

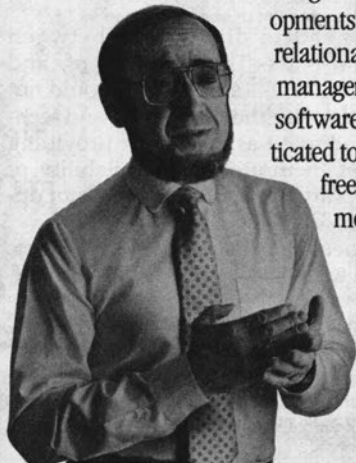
Your library system needs to accommodate changes like these. Open systems provide the easiest way to do just that. They let you adapt to change economically and at your own speed.

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