Shimmer of Excitement

There was a sense of excitement in 1876 as a group of librarians banded together in cooperative enterprise; and concluding her recent article in our journal, Helen W. Tuttle senses in 1976 a "similar shimmer of excitement" as librarians are on the brink of new areas of cooperation.

Given current problems and limitations facing all fields of higher education, where decreasing budgets and declining enrollments join with inflationary pressures and the key word is retrenchment rather than growth, it is difficult to capture this particular sense of excitement. The problems of the moment are all too evident.

Even so, we must be able to divorce ourselves at times from these crises and experience that shimmer of excitement as we view the opportunities and challenges before us. Authors in our journal's centennial series have provided that view.

Jerrold Orne sees us entering a new century "rich in experience, resources, and learning," from which we can profit, both from the lessons of our failures as well as of our successes. Stanley McElderry visualizes a coordinated effort with national leadership to provide the range of resources and services that can support instruction and research during the next century. Connie R. Dunlap points to the need to adapt library organizational structure to give services that are both expanded and more specialized. Although David C. Weber recognizes that economic conditions have forced the library cooperation of the 1970s, technological advances have facilitated it and are providing now "a radical and permanent change in cooperative style." Robert Vosper views the solution to many local problems through international cooperation, with American librarians learning much from their colleagues overseas.

Robert B. Downs lists a number of attributes necessary for today's successful academic library director, features which present a difficult but not impossible combination. Perhaps these attributes may be applied as well to our libraries as we start the new century: "flexibility and adaptability, willingness to accept change, a stable and equable temperament, emotional balance, and endurance."

We begin this new volume of *College & Research Libraries* with our deep thanks to Mary Frances Collins and Anne Dowling for their two years of service to ACRL and the profession through their editorship of our news issues. We welcome as their successors John V. Crowley and William B. Weiss and extend to them our good wishes for success as they begin their own term of service.

R.D.J.

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