

Spring 2004

From the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Allen, Frank (2004) "From the Editor," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 52 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol52/iss1/3>

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From the Editor

It is with mixed feelings that I announce my decision to step down as your editor, effective the end of 2004. Serving as the editor of *The Southeastern Librarian* has been a true pleasure this past 3 1/2 years. There is a season for everything however, and it is always good to step down while still engaged. My hope is that the next editor can build on the work that has been accomplished. Please see the announcement in this issue calling for applications.

It takes many dedicated people to put out an issue and this is a great time to say thank you. The newsletter issue would not be possible without the faithful news contributions from our SELA state representatives, whose names can be found at <http://sela.lib.ucf.edu/Officers.htm>. The journal issues would not be possible without the tireless work of the SELn review board, which now numbers over 20 persons, most but not all of whom are SELA members. We will list their names in a following issue. Editorial board members Catherine Lee and Phyllis Ruscella have provided counsel, editing and layout assistance throughout my tenure. Lauren Fallon, our SELA administrator, has assisted every step of the way in liaison with mailings, subscription address changes, serials claims and a number of other countless details. I would like to thank the SELA executive officers of the current and previous biennia, and previous and current webmasters Curtis Rogers and Raynette Kibbee for their support of the journal. Lastly I would like to thank Sue Shinholser of Spectrum Printing in Orlando, Florida, for her excellent customer service in attending to the details of successfully producing each issue.

This issue features six articles with distinctively different agendas. Thura Mack and Jill Keally proudly share the launching of a residency program for minority librarians at the University of Tennessee Libraries. William Black and co-authors illustrate how their library is putting LibQUAL survey data to use in practical ways, something that is needed in the academic library community. Surla Murgai employees a formal surveying approach to measure management styles of library and information science students in different cultures, with particular attention given to the role of women in senior management positions. Gail Stern Kwak has written a provocative opinion piece on the transformation that has taken place in academic library reference services since the early 1990's. Gerald Patout, Jr. showcases an indexing project in New Orleans to put local obituary records into a searchable database. Wil Weston and the SELA Planning and Development Committee have compiled the results of a survey of SELA members. Lastly we feature the review of a book on the relationship between the city of New Orleans and the Mississippi River.

The rich variety of topics represented in this issue is an illustration of the broad range of issues we deal with in our libraries, as well as the diversity of our profession. What a fascinating time in which to be a librarian.

A SPLENDID COMBINATION!

Southeastern Library Association Biennial Conference
&
North Carolina Library Association Centennial Conference
November 9-13, 2004
Charlotte Convention Center
Westin Charlotte Hotel
Charlotte, North Carolina