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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor

Several articles in this issue have loosely correlating threads. Stephen Shorb shows us a model for ethical decision-making in libraries based upon S. R. Ranganathan's "Five Laws of Library Science". The five laws are elegant, powerful and refreshingly simple, particularly when applied in the practical manner Mr. Shorb employs. More study could be conducted on these five laws and the extent to which they can contribute to a theoretical foundation for librarianship. Christine Brown and Brett Spencer report on results from a survey which asked Alabama librarians to assess the relevancy of library and information science research studies to actual library practice. Their findings suggest that librarians view much of LIS research as not particularly relevant. In the editor's opinion this is somewhat disheartening but also not surprising. Mr. Shorb's paper is perhaps just such an example of successfully coupling library theory with library practice. In another article, Bill Nelson carefully lays out the new SACS accreditation guidelines. While certainly more pragmatic in nature than the five laws, accreditation plays a critically important role in upholding professional standards of librarianship.

Steven Cox offers some advice on the art of accepting gifts and donations on the library's terms, while keeping all parties happy. As Mr. Cox relates, some gifts, while well intended, simply do not further the library's mission and may in fact fail a cost-benefit test. Does accepting a marginal gift in order to appease a prominent donor compromise the library's ability to provide core services? Maybe one can look at the Five Laws here as well.

Christopher Freeman uses survey data to look for correlations between users' self-perception of their own information literacy skills and their opinion of the importance of library instruction. Mr. Freeman sees a slightly negative correlation based upon visual analysis of the data, though he points out that the sample size is too small for the findings to be statistically valid. I.E. Users with a high self-assessment of their library skills tend to value library instruction lower than users with a low self-assessment. The problem with this is that many users have an over-inflated opinion of their information literacy skills.

We commend all of these authors for their scholarship and thoughtful contributions.

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As I close out my term as editor of *The Southeastern Librarian*, I would like to again thank Ann Hamilton and Barry Baker, current and past-presidents respectively of SELA, for their wonderful support and guidance these past four years. I would also like to thank Raynette Kibbee, SELA Webmaster, for her eager assistance in editing and mounting issues on the SELA web site. Thanks goes to Phyllis Ruscella and Catherine Lee, SELn editorial board members for their guidance with a number of decisions made early on and throughout, regarding emphasis for the journal. Another word of thanks goes to the team of SELA manuscript reviewers, who diligently worked their way through article submissions. For the record, the acceptance rate for the journal during this editor's term was 65%. Lastly, thanks to the SELA state representatives and the general membership for your news submissions, suggestions, interest and support. It has been a pleasure serving as your editor for the past four years.

- Frank R. Allen