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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor

As the new editor for *The Southeastern Librarian*, I would like to first thank Judith Gibbons and Carolyn Tassie, editor of *Kentucky Libraries*, who met with me early last fall to review the editorial requirements for this endeavor and helped me make the decision for acceptance. I would especially like to thank Frank Allen, previous editor, for all of the guidance he has (and continues) to give, helping me “learn the ropes” of journal editorship. I have a tough act to follow. Frank has done an outstanding job in making *The Southeastern Librarian* a journal with an excellent reputation. I can only hope that I can keep the tradition going. Just like going swimming, you can test the waters, but you don’t really know what it will be like until you jump in. I have now jumped in and hopefully I can keep my head above water with the help of my Editorial Board, reviewers, and of course Frank! I have learned so much putting together this first issue, and look forward to what is in store for the future. As a manager and “systems person” I don’t always get to see tangible results of my work. Putting together this issue helps give me the satisfaction of actually putting my hands on a finished product. I ask for your support and forgiveness for any blunders I make in the first few issues.

The articles for this issue were confirmed last fall, prior to my acceptance of editorial duties. I mention this for those of you who are interested in submitting publications. It may take six months to a year **after acceptance** before a submission is published. Each submission goes through a process of blind review by three reviewers. The reviewers also make comments on changes to the text, which may be incorporated into the final version of those accepted for publication. Since the reviewers and editor are volunteers, “real jobs” have a priority. Please be patient when submitting an article for publication.

The articles in this issue cover a variety of topics. Dana Mervar and Matthew Loving compare two popular chat reference products (OCLC’s QuestionPoint and Docutek’s VRL*plus*) and compare operation for both the basic and advanced versions of both. Kathy Campbell, Debbie O’Brien and Jean Flanigan cover aliteracy and ways to improve leisure reading on a college campus. Jennifer McClure addresses the licensing issues involved in providing information from databases to virtual patrons, whose affiliation with a library is sometimes difficult to determine. Brad Marcum describes a program which helps first-year students gain the library information skills necessary to make them successful college researchers. D. Brett Spencer and others offer practical advice to reference graduate assistants to give them a successful library experience. William Hubbard and Donald Walter elaborate on the LibQual+ survey performed in their library and the applications of service improvements based on the survey responses.

Enjoy this issue of *The Southeastern Librarian*. If you have any comments, feel free to contact me at [bratcher@nku.edu](mailto:bratcher@nku.edu).

Perry Bratcher