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From the Editor

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From the Editor

Libraries are constantly struggling to keep up with current technologies in order to meet user needs. This adds to the stress levels of librarians and patrons alike. Two years ago, stress levels we put to the extreme when hurricane Katrina hit the southeastern United States. The devastation in some areas was immense and two years later some libraries are still dealing with the impact. This issue contains two articles about dealing with the aftermath of Katrina. The remaining articles discuss issues on implementing new technologies and making sure that we not neglect children's titles in academic library collections.

Elizabeth Doolittle gives a brief personal perspective to preparations before the hurricane and then how University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus dealt with (and continue to deal with) the issues which arose. She identifies the struggle of not only bringing up services, but dealing with facilities and the personal impact on staff members. Florence Jumonville outlines the events and how they affected the use of the collection in a particular library - a special collections area at the University of New Orleans Library. She compares usage both before and after Katrina. These statistics, ironically, led to a deeper analysis on the usage of the collection for future decision making.

Miao Jin and Ann Branton provide the results of their survey regarding the use of online vs. print cataloging tools by librarians. Are these librarians embracing the changing technology? Why or why not? Which tools are being used and what influences the usage of certain tools? Laurie Charnigo and Carley Suther outline the importance of an often neglected collection of academic libraries - children's literature. They discuss a program that can generate interest in this genre as well as emphasize particular titles. Jean Vollrath discusses ways of assessing new service in light of the Web 2.0 "technologies". Several specific Web 2.0 tools are discussed as well as these general aspects of these social tools.

This issue contains articles of both general and specific interest to librarians. I hope you enjoy these and consider submitting your own proposed articles.

Perry Bratcher