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## From the Editor

Perry Bratcher

*Northern Kentucky University*, [bratcher@nku.edu](mailto:bratcher@nku.edu)

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## From the Editor

This issue of *The Southeastern Librarian* contains articles covering the gamut of library services - from reference to cataloging and instruction to the opinions of librarians regarding physical disabilities. While some of the information is specific to certain situations, all readers will be able to relate the issues to particular situations in their own libraries.

Donna Braquet and Micheline Westfall discuss experiences in helping their institution attain a university-wide goal of retaining first-year students in their article “Of Fairs and Festivals: Librarians Teach Thematic First-Year Seminars”. They are involved with providing information literacy within “themed” seminars in order to generate interest. The positive impact of librarian involvement with the first-year student program is also discussed.

Jackie Brodsky and Muriel K. Wells address the need for increased library awareness of the needs of patrons with physical challenges in their article “Attitudes Toward Library Patrons with Physical Challenges: A Survey of Members of the Public Library Division of the Alabama Library Association”. In order to meet the needs of these users, it is necessary to understand the attitudes of the individuals serving them. These attitudes can then be addressed in order to provide the necessary support.

In the article “Stress and Cataloging Paraprofessionals in Academic and Public Libraries in Florida”, Edna McClellan outlines several work-related stress issues for paraprofessional catalogers. These issues deal with decisions which need to be made regarding the cataloging record. Over the years, decisions which in the past were made by professional catalogers are increasingly being made by paraprofessionals – without adequate training. This article outlines the areas which need to be addressed in order to reduce stress levels.

Harry D. Nuttall and Carley Knight address the issues involved with de-commissioning a popular database in their article “From Both Sides Now: A Recently-Hired Librarian and a Library Veteran Respond to the Loss of a Favorite Database”. It is often necessary to cut resources in tough economic times, but when the resource becomes an integral part of workflow, it is difficult to reconfigure operations in order to maintain service. This article discusses the impacts that elimination of a resource can have on meeting user needs.

Enjoy this issue and enjoy the spring weather!

Perry Bratcher  
Editor