Editor's Keyboard

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The most important recent advances in library science, it seems, have all—or nearly all—come from the field of information technology. Of these improvements, none has been more impressive than the astounding gains made through the development of Web technology. And yet, in spite of the ways these changes have transformed the manner in which people behave and work in libraries, the original function of the library persists, including its role as a place where people encounter collections of books and other tangible objects not through the ethereal Internet, but physically, in present places. Most likely, it will always remain so, if only for the reason that we are social animals with bodies as well as brains. We need a meeting ground, where we can encounter each other and share ideas.

This issue of *LA&M* is about the "library as place." Although the authors of the articles in this issue all deal to some extent with the transformation of libraries, they focus on the importance of libraries as place—as centers for communities to gather and learn, both individually and from each other. Jeffery A. Lackney and Paul Zajfen in their article, "Post-Occupancy Evaluation of Public Libraries: Lessons Learned from Three Case Studies," describe a unique effort to make good libraries even better by working with constituents to assess and improve the functional performance of their local libraries. Frank Cervone, in "Library Development: A Long-Term Strategy for Library Funding," provides a blueprint that can be used by both small and mid-sized academic libraries for establishing a workable fundraising plan. Like Lackney and Zajfen, Cervone focuses on ways to build on the strengths of a particular institution. He notes, "It is critical that development be based on the particular niche your library occupies. The goal of a development program is to promote the growth and enhancement of a first-rate library. The program should exist to bridge the gap between average and excellent or to make what is excellent even better. The best place to start is to look at the traditional and emerging strengths of the library.'"

Mark Vargas in "Using a Third-Party Vendor for Off-Site Storage of Library Materials: A Case Study of the Byrne Memorial Library, Saint Xavier University," describes the creative methods he used to implement off-site storage and free up space in his library for other uses. As Vargas notes, moving books and journals off-site can be a difficult situation for teaching faculty, in particular, to deal with. His careful planning resulted in a program accepted by library staff, university administration, and teaching faculty alike. The interview with Kim Bonner, the director of the Center for Intellectual Property at the University of Maryland addresses issues that plague the virtual world—among them, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), the TEACH Act, and peer-to-peer file sharing—but also have a very real affect on the physical world of the university.

This issue contains articles that had their genesis as ALA conference papers. Lackney and Zajfen's article is based on their program, "Is the Honeymoon Over? Post-Occupancy Building Evaluations for Libraries," which recently ran at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. The program drew a standing-room-only crowd of 250 people. I encourage you to consider developing your program into an article for a submission to *LA&M* and contacting me at deyrupma@shu.edu. I also encourage you to consider taking a program or pre-conference and proposing a topic for a monograph or other full-length work to the new LAMA publications chair, Stephen Van Buren (Stephen_VanBuren@sdstate.edu).

Lastly, I encourage you to ask a library student you know or work with to apply for the annual LAMA/YBP Student Writing and Development Award. The 2004 award-winning article runs in this issue. Melanie Boyd has done a splendid job in her article, "Juanita's Paintings," describing how library managers can develop an ethical code that they can live by and use as a guidepost to manage others.

This issue introduces the new associate editor of *LA&M,* Gregg Sapp (GSapp@uamail.albany.edu). Gregg, head of the science library and associate librarian at the University at Albany SUNY, has extensive experience as an editor and writer. He is the author of *A Brief History of the Future of Libraries* (Scarecrow, 2002) and *Building a Popular Science Library Collection* (Greenwood, 1995). Gregg previously served as the editor in chief of the *Journal of Access Services.* Both of us would be happy to hear from you.