



Editor's Keyboard

Gregg Sapp

On To-Do Lists Past and Future

Like many of you, dear readers, I keep a daily to-do list. Mine is generally ranked into categories of priority: "Overdue," "Due Imminently," and "Due Sooner

Than You Realize." I also create subcategories reflecting the amount of effort that will be required to complete these tasks: "Overwhelming," "Burdensome," and "Don't Fool Yourself, It Will Be More Work Than You Think." So, for example, the number one task on today's to-do list is both "Overdue" and "Overwhelming." This is the most lethal combination. I will not elaborate on the further details (there are ten specific functions listed that must be done in order to complete the bigger task), but the point is that for this day, when I turned over the page on my desk calendar, that heart-stopping task I'm actually working on right now is "finish Volume 22(4) of *LA&M*!"

For the last four years, there has been some task related to *LA&M* on my to-do list every single working day. Even in between deadlines, these tasks have never been relegated to any category less than "Due Sooner Than You Realize" and "Don't Fool Yourself . . ." In other words, this is the kind of a job in which a person can never get caught up. I'd be lying if I said there weren't days that I got very sick and tired of *LA&M*. Even so, it may seem contradictory, but I have to admit that I've loved every minute of it, and I'm going to miss this gig.

For, in fact, this is my last issue as editor of *LA&M*. With it, I am passing the torch to my friend and erstwhile associate editor, Eric Shoaf, along with this advice: carry it high, but don't get burned by it. Eric has been a gas to work with, and I know he will do a great job.

In order to give you something to remember me by, though, I'm pleased to provide an issue that is jam-packed with useful information and thoughtful perspective. Past issues have rather closely followed themes, but this one was assembled with variety in mind—although it occurs to me, upon reexamination, that the issue of "diversity" (intellectual, physical, and cultural) rather encompasses each contribution.

Diversity is about respecting minorities. We are all minorities in different ways; some are more obvious than others. Patrick Valentine looks at one aspect of diversity that is fairly evident—multilingualism—and discusses ways that the Web can help to cross language barriers. As a member of the ambivalent minority gender in the profession of librarianship, I appreciated Aloha Record and Ravonne Green's review on the motives of men in library administration (it's a "guy" thing). Being of a certain age, I also resonated with Chris Long and Rachel Applegate's article on "bridge generation" librarians and how they keep up with technology trends. Marcy Simons's interview features insight into Jerry Campbell, a person who, by his own admission, isn't afraid to "shake things up" in librarianship. To be controversial is, by itself, embracing a kind of minority status, and some people, like Campbell, thrive on it. And finally, because the freedom to be controversial is something that must be guarded, Gary Chafee's review of the effects of the USA PATRIOT Act is worthy of serious consideration.

I also owe a last accommodation to *LA&M*'s columnists: John Lubans, Robert Moran, Bonnie Osif, and Julie Todaro. I know that each has his or her own following, and individually (and collectively) they have been a pleasure to know and work with. Last, but certainly not least, grateful felicitations are due to my stalwart secretary, Anne Volmer. For the last two years, she has taken every single marked-up manuscript submitted to *LA&M* and given me a clean draft—and more often than not, another draft, and another. She has thus read every single article that the journal has published under my editorship—and many that never got published—in every stage of their revision. Now, I like to think that the content in *LA&M* is pretty good, but that's enough to induce stupor. I don't know whether thanks or apologies, or both, are in order, but I do know that I couldn't have done this job without her.

As I proceed into my post-editorial future, I look forward to starting in a brand new position as dean of library and media services at Evergreen State College, where I'm sure that my days will be filled with many expansive to-do lists. Sometimes I wonder if I wouldn't get more things done if I did not invest so much time in making them.

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