

Editor's Introduction

Something New Under the Sun

Beth Blakesley

The spring semester has ended here, and in a college town like Pullman, the mass exodus of students brings a different feel to campus and the whole town. Even though nothing seems to slow down as much as it used to, we are still energized by the thought of a “summer break,” time to work on projects, catch up, and get ahead. A change of pace can be refreshing, laying the groundwork for learning, exploring and experiencing new things. LLAMA President Pat Hawthorne’s column challenges us to “prepare to be inspired,” providing a taste of what this year’s ACRL/LLAMA Joint President’s Program at Annual, another summer staple for many of us, will offer.

Danuta Nitecki, Jennifer Livingston, Gerry Gorelick and Suzanne G. Noll describe the Drexel University Libraries’ experience with Future Search, a large-scale planning process that has been often utilized in the non-profit sector. This process allowed for collaboration with other partners on campus to bring a new approach to the creation and refreshing of a strategic plan.

Our feature articles in this issue address a variety of areas that inspire new thinking and ignite curiosity. James K. Teliha looks back in our history to better understand the present and future. Janet Pinkley and Kaela Casey address a type of literature that is sometimes ignored by collection development efforts but can connect a variety of users with material in school, public and academic libraries. Jeff Williams, Tammy Nickelson Dearie, and Brian E.C. Schottlaender approach strategic planning from a different angle, describing the process used by the University of California San Diego to create a strategic plan among all their constituents.

In her column, Pixey Mosley employs analogies to black and white photography in her examination of the importance of understanding the nuances of personnel management. Jennifer Bartlett talks about managing volunteer programs, and Patricia Katopol explores ways libraries can reach out to small businesses in their communities. Leo Lo addresses a topic that everyone can always learn more about: public speaking.

The contents of this issue remind me that there is always something new to learn, and it arrives just when we might have a free moment or two to consider these ideas.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer. See you in Chicago at Annual!

Beth Blakesley (elizabeth.blakesley@gmail.com) is Associate Dean of Libraries at Washington State University.

Published: May 2013