



Editorial

Rewards of Editing *C&RL*

In the September, October, and November issues of *C&RL News*, the Association of College and Research Libraries published an advertisement for the *C&RL* editor's position. The new editor should be chosen by next annual conference and will have a year to learn the duties and to begin referring submissions. The new editor will assume office after annual conference in 1996. "No one will do this for the \$400 honorarium," quipped Don Riggs.

I edit *C&RL* for love — love of librarianship in particular, the scholarly process in general, and good thinking and writing in both. The ideas, the people, and the institutional benefits, and even the pressures have made these past four and a half years an extraordinarily gratifying experience, one that I would recommend to others.

Ideas: The manuscripts that undergo the refereeing process for possible publication in *College & Research Libraries* contain the best and most provocative ideas about the theory, the practice, and the future of librarianship. Through these ideas, the profession moves itself forward in an environment of increasingly rapid change. Without the continued research into new approaches and responses to practical problems, librarians will go the way of composers and typefounders. Editing *C&RL* has provided me with an intimate view of the action on the intellectual network and with an opportunity to shape that action.

People: Even more than working with ideas and their expression, editing *C&RL* has been about relationships with the people who create, critique, and clarify those ideas. Authors, referees, and

only finally editors create this journal; I have especially enjoyed working with the authors whose desire to share their knowledge creates the network of ideas, and with the ACRL leadership who support the journal as a vehicle for improving the profession through research.

Institutional relationship: Academic institutions value highly the creation and transmission of knowledge through scholarly journals. Participation in that activity underscores librarianship's commonality with other disciplines. Penn State University's Dean Nancy Cline comments: "It has been rewarding to have the editorship of *C&RL* based at Penn State. The librarians here are very active in professional organizations and conferences, and they contribute to many publications. Engaging many of our faculty in the review process has resulted in a better understanding of how one's scholarship progresses from a good idea to a published article. It has also given librarians a chance to see how important the refereeing process is. In her editorship, Gloriana St. Clair has taken the opportunity to involve many other librarians so that they can learn of the rewards as well as the problems faced in producing a high quality journal. We are proud of this contribution to ALA and hope that other institutions will benefit from hosting *C&RL* as much as we have."

Pressures: Editing *C&RL* does have its more trying moments. The ACRL Board's plan to save money by cutting back to four issues a year was the nadir of my term. Strong assistance from the *C&RL* Editorial Board and the ACRL Publications Committee convinced them to reconsider, and the fiscal crisis passed.

The time schedule to produce six issues a year is relentless. Two-thirds of all submissions must be rejected to squeeze into the existing page constraints. Time from submission to publication is lengthy, as is common with highly ranked journals in most disciplines. Nevertheless, the regular delivery of a selection of fine articles and book reviews to ACRL members has been a source of genuine pride and pleasure.

Perhaps a new editor will be able to avoid some of these pressures. That person will also have significant new challenges: analyzing the efficacy and suitability of electronic publication, developing methods to achieve a quicker response time, and working toward a clearer articulation of the journal's relevance to the practice of academic librarianship. ACRL members interested in undertaking this weighty but satisfying responsibility should contact the editor for further details or send their credentials directly to the ACRL Office to the attention of Hugh Thompson.

In keeping with this editor's emphasis on diversifying the editorial voice by having Board members write editorials, Board member Irene Hoadley suggested that former *C&RL* editors be asked to contribute to this discussion of the rewards of the editorship. Subsequently, I contacted former editors and received these recollections of their service as *C&RL* editor.

David Kaser, the 1963-69 editor, recalls: "The principal personal benefit I received from my editorship of *C&RL* was that for seven years I was able to read not only articles that we accepted for publication—I would have read those even if I had not been editor—but also the papers that were not accepted for publication. Even the papers we had to reject contained invaluable insights, concepts, observations, and ideas, and I always regretted that I was the only librarian on earth who was blessed to read and learn from them all."

Richard M. Dougherty, who edited *C&RL* from 1969 to 1974, says: "My decision to become *C&RL*'s editor was one of the most important decisions I ever

made. It changed my professional career. I became much more involved in all aspects of academic librarianship and as editor I felt that I was involved in important activities. It was a heady experience and I recommend the post to any aspiring academic librarian. But don't let anyone fool you into believing that the responsibilities will only require a modest commitment. Be prepared to work and work hard, but also be prepared to reap giant satisfactions."

Richard D. Johnson, editor from 1974 to 1980, remembers editing *C&RL* as "the most stimulating association I have had in my professional career What I learned in those years about libraries, about writing, about editing, about publishing; the wonderful friends and acquaintances I enjoyed; the sense of making a contribution to the profession—all these elements contributed to a superb experience."

Jim Schmidt, editor from 1980 to 1984, writes: "There are two wonderful memories of my four-year term as editor of *C&RL*. The first and more important one is working with authors. Without exception, article writers were agreeable and easy to work with My second memory is the fun I had in redesigning *C&RL*. The designer was a pleasure to work with, and my Editorial Board made several creative suggestions In both memories I believe I enjoyed the vast good will which exists among librarians generally and academic librarians in particular."

Charles Martell, 1984-1990, says: "Academic librarianship has turned a historic corner. Some of this has been facilitated by our colleagues who are engaged in creating a new vision or who are looking for new paths to travel. Increasingly librarians are demonstrating a renewed energy and vitality. This is the world that the new editor of *C&RL* will be privileged to participate in and influence. The new editor will, I hope, be overwhelmed by our outpouring of ideas. The new editor will help us to present these to our colleagues in the most effective way possible. It's quite a task, a wonderful task."

This distinguished editorship has been a most rewarding avocation for its incumbents. It provides the immortality that has motivated scholars in all fields—the contribution is from the past,

for today, and for the ages. Beyond any honorarium, the moment of pulling the personal subscription copy from my home mailbox is a moment of joy.

GLORIANA ST. CLAIR

**ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGE
& RESEARCH
LIBRARIES**

**APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS
INVITED FOR *C&RL* EDITOR**

Applications and nominations are invited for the position of editor of COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES (*C&RL*), the bimonthly, scholarly research journal of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). The editor is appointed for a three-year term which may be renewed for an additional three years. Applicants must be members of ALA and ACRL. Qualifications include professional experience in academic libraries, a record of scholarly publication, editing experience, an understanding of the scholarly communication process, and a broad knowledge of the issues confronting academic libraries.

Some funding for editorial assistance is available, and there is a small honorarium for the editor.

Appointment will be made by the ACRL Board of Directors at the 1995 Annual Conference, upon the recommendation of the search committee and of the ACRL Publications Committee. The incoming editor will assume full responsibility for *C&RL* in July 1996, after a year working with the out-going editor.

Nominations, or resumes and letters of application including the names of three references, should be sent to:

***C&RL* Search Committee
c/o Hugh Thompson, Program Officer
ACRL/ALA
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611**

The deadline for receipt of applications is December 15, 1994. Finalists will be interviewed at the Midwinter Meeting in February 1995.

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