

This issue features a number of articles that deal with the changing nature of academic librarianship and highlight the myriad areas impacted by change. “The blended librarian” (p. 372) puts forth a framework for reinventing the role of academic librarians, in which they become more integrated with the teaching and learning process and operate as campus technology leaders. The authors develop the concept of the blended librarian, introduce principles of blended librarianship, and invite you to engage in further discussion of the concept.

“Civic engagement in academic libraries” (p. 380) focuses on the growing trend in higher education of promoting civic engagement on campus and the increasing role of the library in such endeavors. The library offers a central space for convening deliberative forums, and librarians have the teaching and research skills to guide a successful civic engagement program.

The article on “Northwestern’s new Maeda bookplate” (p. 376) illustrates how the changing nature of libraries into places often associated more with bytes than books required a step in a new direction during the creation of a donor bookplate.

As America begins gearing up for the presidential election this fall, it seemed appropriate to offer an Internet Resources article on “Political parties and the electoral process” (p. 366). This article will help you find information on the electoral college, major and third political parties, and the 2004 election.

If you weren’t able to attend the Western European Studies Section’s second international conference, “Migrations in Society, Culture, and the Library,” in April, the article on p. 385 provides an overview of the conference programming and activities.

—Stephanie Orphan, Editor-in-chief
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