

Preface

Beginning with the present volume, I will be taking over as editor of *Advances in Librarianship*. I am excited about the opportunity to bring provocative and stimulating papers to readers of the series. My first step will be to recruit an enthusiastic and intellectually rigorous editorial board drawn from a variety of backgrounds and with wide-ranging interests. While developments in the field and the board's suggestions will, of course, influence the contents of future volumes, I myself will be especially interested in seeking articles that explore the many aspects of the human side of the high-technology revolution, be they changes in information-seeking behavior, research patterns, or interpersonal relationships. I am also committed to resuming a regular annual publication schedule, reducing the turnaround time between submission and publication, and ensuring that research results of interest in a rapidly changing profession are available as currently as possible.

The articles in Volume 15 were solicited before I took over the editorship. I did, however, review them with some care in manuscript, and am confident that the readership of the *Advances* will find them, as I did, not only based on solid research but eminently readable. The range of topics is wide, well chosen for current interest, and should appeal to public, academic, and special librarians as well as library educators. Specifically, Koenig discusses the transferability of library-related skills to related professions such as publishing, data management, and system design, and recommends that library education programs be restructured to give future librarians skills that would enhance movement between information management environments. He also predicts that an alliance of library and information management specialists is more likely than a merging of training and skills, with resultant transferability.

Briggs analyzes the scholarly productivity of library school faculty as compared to other disciplines, and poses some hard questions as well as some hopeful answers. Next, Stern presents a history of public library services to particular ethnic groups, from special services to the foreign-born early in the century, to integrated services to today's multicultural society. The change in philosophical approach he describes is not only of historical

interest, but will give a useful frame of reference to all librarians planning for multiethnic collections.

Barclay and Li give a comprehensive overview of library and information services in China over the last 20 years, in the context of political developments in the region. The wealth of detail and exhaustive references should make this article a valuable source for future research. In the next article, Woodsworth, after establishing her working definition of what a network is, reports on the variety of existing network governance structures, and, finding no optimum structure, identifies basic issues for further investigation.

Larson reviews the problematic nature of subject searching in online catalogs. He rejects the idea of increased bibliographic instruction as a cure, but rather suggests improvements in database and database management system design. He discusses the potential of presently emerging sophisticated search and retrieval system design and concludes with a summary and synthesis of design directions for the next generations of online catalogs.

Choldin *et al.* discuss the current status of area study collections in United States research libraries. Specialists for each field discuss research and publication patterns, acquisitions and cooperative projects, as well as access and preservation issues, in collections covering Africa, Latin America, South Asia, the Middle East, the Far East, and Slavic and East European countries.