

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL NOTE

by Noreen B. Blake

In this final issue of the 20th century we sadly salute Anne Galler, long-time editor of *Education Libraries*. Her death has left an enormous gap in the lives of her family, friends, and colleagues. Those who watched her bravely struggle against a terminal illness admired her greatly. Not once did she complain. Courageous and dignified to the end, she set about to make her good-byes and to ensure that all professional ends were methodically organized and tied up. If life were fair, Anne would have been allowed more years to enjoy her family and her work, but it was not to be. At her funeral it was stated that she wished "to be remembered as she was." All of us whose lives she touched will remember and miss her warmth, diligence, insight, wisdom, and the boundless, cheery vitality with which she approached projects and challenges. Her constructive ideas brought a significant contribution to the library profession and were reflected in the many awards she received. Fittingly, in June 2000, at the SLA Conference in Philadelphia, her colleagues will bestow on her a deserving honour. She is to be inducted for distinguished service in the Hall of Fame of the Special Libraries Association. In our opening pages, Carol Mitchell, former assistant editor of this journal, remembers Anne in a personal tribute.

Staff Development in the form of training and retraining at all levels of technological competencies is more vital than ever in today's electronic environment. Outmoded methods arise all too frequently. Libraries must have a mandate for change and offer opportunities for both professional and non-professional staff to participate in development activities. In her commentary, Joanne Locke provides a background on staff development needs. Examples of how two U.S. university libraries are dealing with these urgent needs are presented for us by Betsy Anthony, Education Library Head at the University of Virginia, and by co-authors Suzanne M. Brown and Trudi DiTrollo of the University of Florida. Both articles examine the strategies and methods that these universities are implementing in order to meet ongoing challenges facing libraries today.

Reference works selected by Gladys Dratch and Deborah Garson for the New and Forthcoming column reflect current topics in education. Ranging from teacher guides and handbooks to desk reference tools, educators from primary to university level will find them useful and interesting. ERIC's journal article citations focus on topics related to staff development. Readers are pointed to a wide variety of resources including media library development, quality library management, and perspectives on technological training for information specialists. In News from Eric, we can always expect the newest advances in the field of education information to be covered by Eric Plotnick and his team at the Eric Clearinghouse. We are given helpful directions to new developments on its projects and Web sites. The Clearinghouse is happy to respond to any queries on its resources and publications either by phone or e-mail.

This issue sees the debut of a new column, Resources on the Net, which will alert readers to Web sites related to the theme of the journal. Anne Wade brings to this task a background of expertise from her experience as information specialist in the field of library research and teaching. I am certain that readers will find it helpful and informative. We look forward to her future annotated selections.

Our popular Book Review section contains a potpourri of books based on a variety of educational topics of interest to the reviewers. We hope to expand this section and encourage inquiries from our regular subscribers, readers and contributors about books available for reviewing for upcoming issues. The editors are happy to receive your e-mail requests and to supply you with further information.

At the onset of this new millennium *Education Libraries* hopes to continue to deliver new ideas and valuable educational information.

FAREWELL TO ANNE — A Personal Perception

Recently, I was about to send an information sheet to a new reviewer for *Education Libraries* when I noticed that queries were to be sent to Anne Galler, Editor. I reached for a container of whiteout and deleted her name. That is when I realized, despite having attended her funeral, that Anne was really gone. There would be no more phone calls starting with “Hi, it’s me. When are we going to have lunch?” There would be no more confidences exchanged or aggravation shared, no more discussions of the best way to edit an article and no more announcements of the birth of a new grandchild or exchange of the joy the sayings of grandchildren bring.

Those who knew Anne felt her warmth and enthusiasm in every word. Anne was the most vibrant, energetic, dynamic person I have ever known. Her interest in people was far-reaching. A dedicated teacher, she took great pride in her students. She used her considerable networking skills to find positions for graduates of the Library Studies Program, and went to great lengths to help if she knew that someone was in financial straits. She possessed great generosity of spirit as well as of kind. Occasionally, she would call me to tell me of an opening to see if I was interested in submitting an application. When applying for my current position I asked my prospective employer if the position would be posted within the university and was told it would not be. I ventured to ask if this meant that I had the job. The reply was, “If you’re good enough for Anne Galler, you’re good enough for me.”

“Librarians, by the nature of their affiliation with public, academic and cultural institutions, like museum curators and information center directors, must have an international outlook.” (*Education Libraries* 20:1/2) Thus Anne started an article in 1996, quoting from Mohammed M. Amman’s *Innovation for Information: International Contributions to Librarianship*, without realizing that she was the epitome of the consummate international librarian. Anne was passionate about the need for libraries and the need for librarians. Her record speaks for itself; she was involved with many organizations and served on many committees. Seen on paper, they represent an impressive list but with Anne at the helm, they were so much more.

Much of the above is known, so here I remember Anne on a more personal level and try to capture for you the essence of the Anne I knew. I first met Anne in 1986. As a potential mature student into Concordia’s Library Studies Program, I had an appointment with the director. All I had been told was that she was a small, lively, red-haired woman and that I would like her. I sat nervously trembling in the hall outside her office until I was called. Then we chatted like old friends for over forty-five minutes until she realized that others were waiting. I was hooked.

Anne always made you want to do your best. For my final paper in the program, she assigned my topic, something usually left to the student. She wanted research on the librarian’s image and to know how many famous people had started out as librarians. She particularly wanted to find women in the field. I could not find any at that time. Ironically, a few weeks after her death, I discovered, while reading a student’s paper, that Audre Lorde, a well-known feminist writer, had started out as a librarian.

While working as Co-ordinator for Library Studies Distance Education Program, a brainchild of Anne's which began as a pilot program for inmates of Canadian penitentiaries, her office was within earshot of my desk. Anne maintained an open-door policy. She wished to be visible and available. Her phone rang frequently and I never ceased to marvel at the enthusiastic greeting she gave to each caller. She exuded warmth and energy. She rarely seemed to have a bad day. She cared about what was happening in the lives of everyone around her. She took great interest and concern in their situations, whether there were health problems, joyous occasions, professional or other problems. After her many trips, whether for IFLA or other conferences, or for vacations, she would always bring back a memento for her colleagues and friends. We knew that when Anne returned from her annual visit to Switzerland there would be Lindt chocolate bars for all. In her leisure time, for want of a better word, Anne crocheted exquisitely and gave beautiful doilies as gifts.

Anne greeted the arrival of technology in her workplace with a passion and with the assistance of her colleagues who had expertise in the field, she became computer literate in no time. She enjoyed checking her e-mail each morning, keeping in touch with her colleagues and friends around the world.

Anne was an extremely hard worker; spending much of her time planning and organizing her many endeavors whether it be the writing of conference papers, the compiling of the SLA Directory of the Eastern Canada Section or the devising of a manifesto for school libraries. She had confidence in her colleagues' abilities and made them feel an equal part of her team. For several years I was assistant editor of *Education Libraries*. Often when I received material from her, she had already proofread it herself. She was a perfectionist and would be upset if any errors were found on the pages of the publication. Her energy was boundless and even after an overseas trip, she rarely showed fatigue and would put in a full day's work.

It is hard to accept the fact that she is not on vacation and that her dynamic energy must now be carried on by others and in doing so, honour the profession she loved so much. She has left a fitting legacy. I hope that we can live up to it.

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