

## E D I T O R I A L

## EDITORIAL

by Noreen Blake and Joanne Locke

To everything there is a season, and with this issue an immensely gratifying three-year involvement with *Education Libraries* comes to an end. It has been an extremely rewarding experience, and we shall miss the relationships that have developed with the contributors, columnists, book reviewers, editorial review board members, and others in the SLA Education Division.

The *Education Libraries* issues are products of a working team to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Joanne Locke, who held the position of co-editor in 1994, gamely stepped in again to fill the gap created by Anne Galler's untimely death. Her suggestions, contributions, and guidance have been invaluable. Noreen Blake, who assumed the bulk of the responsibility as co-editor, has ensured continued production of quality issues on a timely schedule. Noreen's communication and networking skills facilitated the process for all concerned. Team member Judy Piper DeWolf joined the *Education Libraries* staff three years ago to work on the desktop publishing part of the journal. Every issue presented its own challenges, to which Judy capably rose. She has creatively produced an improved layout and has provided her successor with a sound foundation for future issues.

Contents in *Education Libraries* are the product of a group of people who volunteer their input. Featured here are two articles that offer interesting perspectives on distance education—one from Wales, the other from Canada. Dr. Sue Lithgow is no stranger to these pages. Her article "Library and Information Services to Disadvantaged Users" appeared in Vol. 20 Nos. 1/2 1996. She is joined in this issue by Open Learning Unit co-authors Clare Thomas and Marianne Taylor in providing us with an in-depth investigation into the evaluation procedures for a distance undergraduate degree program at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. The second article, authored by Canadian distance educators Wendy Lowe and Richard Malinski, underlines the importance of implementing unified support systems for the growing numbers of distance learners.

Department column New and Forthcoming at Reference continues to provide readers with a wide variety of new information resources while ERIC News and Selections coupled with Resources on the Net concentrate on useful annotated theme-related selections.

Readers will note a burgeoning in the Book Reviews section. Several new reviewers are introduced here, notably new editor Scott Walter, who takes over the helm of *Education Libraries* with the 2001 publications. We extend to Scott and his editorial members our very best wishes as they take up the torch to continue to bring you innovative quality information on library education and research.

Last but not least, we draw your attention to detailed guidelines on how to contribute articles or book reviews to *Education Libraries* at the end of the Book Reviews section, page 46. These procedures will be published in each issue. Inquiries to the Editor are most welcome.