



It was a close one. There were mumblings about this issue of *Education Libraries* being the last one. I have been editing this journal for three years, and am starting my term as Chair of the Education Division of Special Library Association. Outgoing Chair Sharon Weiner agreed to assume the reins of editorial responsibility, but the question arose as to the impact of the journal. Our journal is the only peer-reviewed publication within the association, and, as such, reflects the importance of scholarly publication for academic librarians. Moreover, thanks to the effective communication of Editorial Review Board member Jacqueline Snider, several worthy articles were submitted and accepted. As a result, I am pleased to offer this high-quality issue, and have provided the groundwork for the next two issues (I will edit the winter issue as my farewell editing job for the division, at least for a while). Thanks to the contributors. Keep those manuscripts coming – as well as reviews (we still need more of both, of course).

So what is special about this issue? The focus is on diversity, particularly in attracting people of color to education libraries and to the profession. Last September, southern California libraries held a Diversity Summit to discuss issues of recruiting, preparing and retaining librarians of color. The following month the American Library Association held a similar event. As this nation becomes more diverse, librarians need to reflect that diversity. Nevertheless, the percentage of non-Anglo librarians has remained stuck at a stubbornly low number. Particularly as post-secondary students make career choices, they will be less likely to think of academic librarianship if the only information professionals they see are pictured in ALA Spectrum posters. The career ethnicity cycle must be broken.

Academic faculty members Suzie Allard, Bharat Mehra and M. Asim Qayyum offer some basic tips for “checking one’s assumptions” when communicating with multicultural populations. They are also developing a toolkit that will facilitate intercultural leadership, a somewhat overlooked dimension of academic librarianship. These authors helped implement their own diversity event, the result of collaboration between the University of Tennessee and the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Peidras.

Emily Love suggests a promising venue for effective collaboration: minority student services. She provides a step-by-step plan to facilitate education partnerships, and explains several successful efforts implemented by the University of Illinois and Urbana-Champaign.

Paul Jaeger and Renee Franklin review the literature on library and information science (LIS) faculty of color, and found that more effort needs to be made in attracting qualified teaching faculty of color. Having a richly diverse LIS faculty helps the profession in general, and provides important role models for potential information professionals.

I am pleased that we can continue this important conversation about diversity within our profession. It can only lead to greater sensitivity to every students’ needs, re-examination of assumptions, and pro-active work towards providing opportunities for people of color to inform the rest of us about the diverse world of information and information services. *And* I am pleased that this journal will continue to pursue worthy issues within education libraries in the hopes of improving education for all. I salute you all, and continue to ask for your support. *Education Libraries* is YOUR voice.