Funny, You Don’t Look 100!

By Jacqueline Snider
Co-Editor

Big events such as anniversaries, birthdays, or in this case, SLA’s centennial, make us consider what we are, where we are, and how we got here. This could be a symptom of aging, a desire for reflection, or an attempt to make sense of all that has gone before. SLA’s centennial prompted me to look at the history of the Division, and in particular, of this journal. What I discovered is that the Association, Division and the journal are intertwined.

In 1975, the first issue was published under the name, Education Libraries Bulletin. According to the first editor, Guest Perry, the Division began with Murray Wortzel of Herbert Lehman College (known as the “godfather of the group”) petitioning Social Sciences Division librarians to form an education section in 1972. In 1975, the section became a full-fledged division. During the first few years, issues incorporated elements of both a newsletter and a journal, and included a directory of division members, a list of conference and meeting events, articles, advertisements, and annotated bibliographies of new and important materials. In looking through these, I recognize names and libraries: my predecessor at ACT, Lois Renter, the librarian at Harvard Graduate School of Education; Malcolm Hamilton, our current co-chair; Deborah Garson who has had a long association with the Division and the journal; and our favorite dancer, JoAn Segal.

Theme issues started in 1977 with “Back to Basics.” Over the years, topics ranged from ethics, networking, international education, an early examination of microcomputers in education (1980), environmental education (1979) to name just a few. Contributors included famous sociologists such as John Ogbu as well as intrepid, well-traveled librarians such as John D’Amicantonio. With the help of Deborah Garson, our plan is to post all of the back issues on our website.

The current issue of the journal looks at the past, present and future of education libraries. In her article on the need for the Division to involve itself in strategic planning, JoAn Segal concludes by saying that “one of the greatest strengths of the Education Division is and probably always will be the fellowship among the members, and this matches extremely well with one of the greatest member needs, which is the sharing of ideas.” These words are as true today as they were when she penned them in 1991.

Please join me in celebrating SLA’s 100th anniversary by continuing to support the Association, our Division, and this journal.

Milestones:
- 1978 Fall. New look.
- 1979 Winter. First guest editor, Dexter Fox.
- 1988 Winter. Question of peer review raised
- 1991 Winter. Anne Galler became editor
- 1991 Winter. 15th anniversary issue; JoAn Segal’s article on the future of the Division
- 1992 Spring. New look
- 1992 Summer. Editorial Board announced
- 1992 Fall/Winter. Article by John U. Ogbu
- 1993 Spring. First refereed issue
- 2005 Summer. Last print issue

Editors:
- 1975. Guest Perry, Houghton Mifflin
- 1989. Lucie M. Olson, Socorro Public Library
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