

Foreword

by Phillip Barton, Guest Editor

What depth should be used for countertops on the circulation and information desks? What should the lighting level be for the multipurpose room? Why is it important to place a circulation desk on the right instead of the left? How many bids must you receive in a formal bidding process?

Why and when should you do an equipment inventory? Does the installation of conduit need to be modified to accommodate fiber optic cable? Why should signage for the children's area be any different than signage for the rest of the library? What role should the library administrator play in relation to the architect on a library building project? Where could I see some examples of bookstore display shelving in North Carolina libraries?

You will find the answers to the above questions, and many more (some which you probably had not even thought to ask) in this issue of *North Carolina Libraries*. The Fall 1991 issue is dedicated to the topic of library architecture. The primary objective in planning this issue was to provide readers with some practical and helpful information relating to library architecture. I am pleased to say that the objective has been well met. I am confident that those who read this issue will be more enlightened about the building process.

The writers bring to this issue their own unique perspectives on the subject of library architecture, sharing with us important and helpful information they have accumulated through personal experiences with library building projects. The information ranges from common-sense advice and tips to expert opinions on how to (or how not to) build libraries.

Architect Bill Burgin provides an excellent overview of many of the considerations one must deal with in library building projects. His discussion ranges from the challenges presented by library shelving to effectively managing acoustics in our not-so-quiet libraries.

Ken Marks, Library Director at East Carolina University, addresses the increasingly important subject of designing libraries that can handle every conceivable type of technology known to mankind at this very moment in time as well as one hundred years from now. Anyone embarking upon a building project would do well to heed his advice regarding "infrastructure" and "flexibility."

Library consultant Carol Brown draws on her experiences as a librarian and a consultant in providing us with some basic information about library interiors. According to Carol the key to successful interiors is planning and a major element of good planning is lots of information gathering, particularly from those who will be using the library.

Lynda Fowler, Director of Media Services in the Durham

County School System, gives us a very personal look into how a librarian becomes a library building expert. I think everyone will enjoy this informative and witty account.

Mae Rodney, Director of the C.G. O'Kelly Library at Winston-Salem State University, deals with the all-important, and sometimes very delicate relationship between the architect and the library director. Drawing on her recent personal experience and extensive reading, Mae provides some keen insights into the various roles that are played throughout a building project.

Holly Willett, Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, shares with us some of her current research into children's environments in public libraries. The information provided here will certainly make for more inviting and friendly children's rooms.

Rich Rosenthal, Operations Manager with the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, offers a review of current laws regarding the construction of public buildings in North Carolina. Essentially, the advice is to know the law and engage a good attorney.

Our Point-Counterpoint deals with the issue of adaptive re-use of buildings, or "can you really make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." Harry Tuchmayer, New Hanover County Library, advises us to build new libraries and not waste our money on converting used post offices or supermarkets. On the other hand, Jim McKee, Caldwell County Public Library, says that with a good building program and an open mind, you can be very happy with a "hand me down."

A special thanks goes to John Welch, Assistant State Librarian at the N.C. Division of State Library, who graciously accepted my last minute request to prepare a bibliography for this issue. Essentially, this select bibliography covers the literature on library architecture for the past five-year period, with an emphasis on practical, how-to information.

This issue contains a unique feature which I am particularly pleased to share with you. Keeping in mind that a picture is worth a thousand words, we have put together a collection of photographs of recently built libraries from throughout the state. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Rose Simon, Library Director at Salem College, and Pat Weathersbee of TeamMedia for their able assistance in preparing this special project.

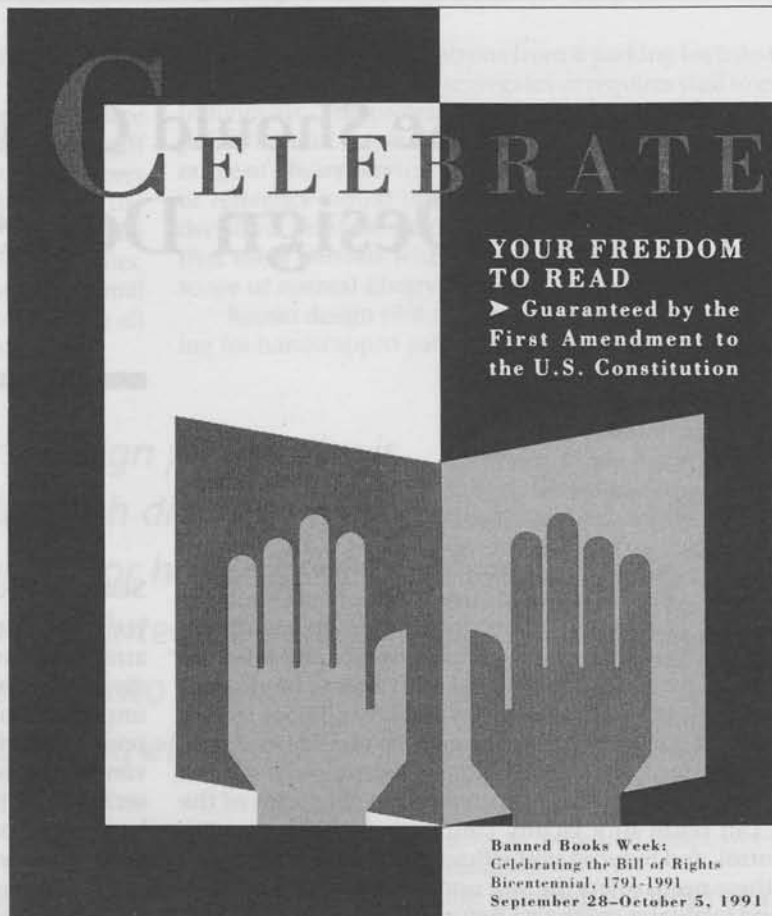
I wish to extend a very sincere "thank you" to the writers who helped make this issue possible. I also wish to thank all those who contributed photographs for use in the photo essay. (Even if your photo did not make the final issue, please know that your efforts are appreciated.) Finally, I would like to thank Frances Bradburn for her helpful suggestions regarding topics and writers and her guidance in helping me pull it together.



Banned Books Week '91 - Celebrating the Freedom to Read focuses on "The Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights."

The week-long celebration, to be held September 28-October 5, will highlight the rights granted by the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, ratified 200 years ago this year. The focus, of course, will be the guarantees provided by the First Amendment, and the power of the competition of ideas, even when controversial, to bring change and progress to our society. The authors of the Bill of Rights could not foresee the controversies of our current society, but they were clear in their commitment to a free marketplace of ideas and an informed public, able to choose for itself among competing voices. Banned Books Week - Celebrating the Freedom to Read serves to publicize the dangers of censorship by those who would deny access to the broad spectrum of ideas, not only for themselves and their children, but for everyone else as well.

Banned Books Week '91 - Celebrating the Freedom to Read, is co-sponsored by the American Library Association, the American Booksellers Association, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, the Association of American Publishers, and the National Association of College Stores, and is endorsed by the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress.



CELEBRATE

YOUR FREEDOM TO READ
▶ Guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Banned Books Week:
Celebrating the Bill of Rights
Bicentennial, 1791-1991
September 28-October 5, 1991

Bringing You the World of Small Press and Video

- 1500 Presses • 7000 Titles
- All in Stock • Adult Non-Fiction
- Annotations Services • Preview/Approval Plans
- Electronic Ordering

1-800-323-4241 • Toll Free • 312-295-1556 • FAX



QUALITY BOOKS INC.

 **a dawson company**

JOHN HIGGINS, SALES REPRESENTATIVE