

Foreword ...

by Frances Bryant Bradburn
Editor

With this Conference Issue of *North Carolina Libraries*, Winter 1993, you the membership of the North Carolina Library Association will be introduced to the new, smaller format of your state's library journal. Many of you are aware that, over the past biennium, the Association has wrestled with many financial issues. While we are not in any danger of being insolvent, we as an Association are having to re-think our financial plans and priorities as interest yields plummet and expenses rise.

A large portion of NCLA's budget goes to support *North Carolina Libraries*. This has always been the case and will continue to be so. But we of the journal's Editorial Board are conscious of our obligation to fit within the structure of the organization.

Thus, as the Association has sought ways of dealing with financial constraints, so have we. The conference issue is our initial attempt, and you will see the remainder in upcoming issues of the journal.

In this issue, you will read and see the essence of NCLA's 50th conference, Celebrate Libraries. You will find most of the sessions summarized, including the general sessions. You will see a variety of photographs—pictures of award-winners, presenters, and participants. You will find all your familiar features: North Carolina Books, Laginappe, From the President, Point/CounterPoint, and the Minutes of the Executive Board. You will also find biennial reports from each of the sections and roundtables and many of the committees, as well as the revised Constitution and Bylaws. In short, you will find a

record of the Association from 1991 to 1993 under President Janet Freeman's capable leadership.

What you will not find in this issue of *North Carolina Libraries* are conference speeches. While this is a good idea in theory, in practice it has been stressful. Several of you are aware of the difficulty of reprinting speeches. Many very good speeches are delivered from notes or outline, not manuscript. Few presenters wish to convert an already-presented address into a publication-ready document. Often, those speakers who come with manuscript in tow, already have publication plans for that manuscript, plans that may not include a state journal with a circumscribed readership. And finally, if truth be told, some speeches, while entertaining and/or informative, do not justify the expense and effort to reprint in the journal. In short, the Editorial Board has decided to offer you, the membership, the flavor of the conference without the texts of the speeches. Each speech is summarized, sometimes quoted, but the full text is not available here.

While all the above are excellent reasons for not including conference addresses, another justification prevailed. We needed a way to recoup a shortfall of funds and continue *North Carolina Libraries* without sacrificing its inherent quality. Thus, by creating a much smaller conference issue of the journal, we will begin the new biennium on firmer financial footing, and yet continue to be able to produce a journal that centers around a specific theme while including all the features that you, the membership, have told us are so important. The Spring 1994 issue will be no more than fifty-six pages in length. All future issues will adhere to this page limitation because of financial constraints. While *North Carolina Libraries* will be shorter, we hope you will agree that future issues also will be just as valuable and enjoyable as the previous ones. We hope each of you will take notice of the change and offer us suggestions and support. After all, this is your journal. Our goal is to reflect your concerns and desires.

Over to You . . .

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor Bradburn:

As I prepare to retire after 33 years of service as an academic librarian, I would like to express my appreciation to all Tar Heel librarians, past and present, who have aided me in my career.

My tenure has included service at two private colleges — Methodist College and N.C. Wesleyan College — and two public universities — Charlotte and N.C. A & T State University (since 1981) — as well as three out-of-state institutions. One of the highlights of my career was serving as editor of *North Carolina Libraries* for three and one-half years (1965-68).

Although I will miss the daily interaction with students, faculty, and library associates, I plan to continue using library resources as a free-lance writer. Thank you, again, North Carolina librarians, for your encouragement and help along the way!

Sincerely yours,
Alva Stewart
Reference Librarian, N.C. A & T State University

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