

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

As I consider the objectives of our organization and the role and responsibility of the president in providing the leadership which should foster our program, it challenges me to offer my philosophy of librarianship and to contribute my particular background to the pattern of our Association.

My philosophy of librarianship stresses service. I believe strongly that if our function of custodianship begins to take precedence over our function of service, something is drastically wrong and corrective measures need to be taken.

In emphasizing the service function, it can mean, though not necessarily, losses of material—sometimes material that is difficult to replace. It can result, and frequently does, in extra work for the circulation staff. It can also mean, unfortunately, that service to unco-operative individuals may result in poor service to others. To counter-balance these elements, however, there can be achieved a friendship for the library which is priceless.

I believe that many things can be done for library patrons, and done cheerfully, that are definitely impositions on the library staff. I also believe that we can say no gracefully when an imposition is too gross.

I believe that personality and knowing how to get along with people are as essential in our profession as knowledge of library techniques. In fact, sometimes I believe they are more important, for we are frequently called upon to deal with difficult personalities and delicate situations. Good will, cheerfulness, and willingness to learn will go a long way to compensate for undeveloped skills that will develop with study and practice.

Your new president welcomes his responsibilities, and salutes the members and friends of the North Carolina Library Association.

HARLAN C. BROWN.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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