



Editorial: Our Pledge: Continued Change in the Pursuit of Excellence

In July, Gloriana St. Clair joined the editorial staff of the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* as the Editor. She will manage the peer reviewing process, and together we are determined to make *JAL* the premier journal addressing the professional requirements of academic librarians.

This editorial, as well as the November one, reinforce the purpose of *JAL* as stated in the "Guidelines for Article Contributions:"

JAL provides a forum for authors to present research findings and, when applicable, their practical applications and significance; analyze policies, practices, issues, and trends; speculate about the future of academic librarianship; and present analytical bibliographic essays and philosophical treatises.

Both the articles and columns "focus on problems and issues germane to college and university libraries." Furthermore,

JAL ... brings to the attention of its readers ... information about new and recently published books and articles in library and information science, management, scholarly communications, and higher education. *JAL* ... covers information policy developments; and management and discipline-specific software, courseware, and CD-ROM.

Each issue consists of an editorial, four to five articles, and regular columns, including:

- Managing Technology, edited by Charles B. Lowry;
- Visions, edited by Don L. Bosseau and Susan K. Martin;
- Information Policy, edited by Robert E. Dugan and Peter Hemon;
- Perspectives on ...;

- Book Reviews, edited by Christy Zlatos and Peter Hemon;
- JAL Guide to Professional Literature, edited by Ellen Altman and Allan Pratt; and
- JAL Guide to Software, Courseware, and CD-ROM, edited by Allen Smith.

We encourage readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters form the basis for expanding the scholarly discourse begun by an article and help readers to evaluate ideas from a different perspective. Letter authors are consulted if condensing or editing of their letters are required.

We anticipate the inclusion of an occasional *JAL* symposium, which involves a provocative paper and solicited responses. Given the acclaim which *JAL* received for its special issue on geographic information systems (GIS) [volume 21, number 4], we shall devote the July issue of each volume to a series of articles (five to eight) covering different aspects of a high-interest topic.

To summarize, for each volume, *JAL* will publish approximately 30-33 articles. We pledge that these articles will be the *best*—of consist, high quality—and will make a positive contribution to the broader literature relating to academic librarianship and the management of academic libraries. We invite the receipt of unsolicited papers. All papers considered for publication will be peer reviewed as part of a blind-reviewing process involving three readers from the Editorial Board. An editorial decision will be made within five weeks upon receipt of a paper.

Peter Hemon, as Editor-in-Chief, will oversee the journal, and Gloriana St. Clair, as Editor, will manage the peer reviewing process. Thus, all manuscripts submitted for possible publi-

cation should be directed to Dr. Gloriana St. Clair [c/o E506 Pattee Library, The Pennsylvania State University Libraries, University Park, PA 16802; voice: (814) 865-0401; fax: (814) 863-7293; e-mail: gss@psulias.psu.edu]. Letters to the editor and other correspondence relating to *JAL* should be directed to Dr. Peter Hernon [Simmons College, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115; voice: (617) 521-2794; fax: (617) 521-3192; e-mail: phernon@vmsvax.simmons.edu].

We invite readers and prospective authors to check the *JAL* homepage: <http://www.wesley.edu/jal/jalhomep.htm>. We pledge to work with authors, especially first time ones, to ensure that their papers meet the high expectations of the Editorial Board and readers.

Academic librarianship, as we all realize, is undergoing profound change. The issues of today and tomorrow, in some respect, differ from those of the past. We pledge that this journal will present articles and column essays addressing those issues. We recognize that the challenges and opportunities for academic librarianship and *JAL* are many. We regard our collaborative effort as a partnership involving the Editorial Board, the publisher, and the broader profession. Together, we can ensure that *JAL* develops as the premier journal addressing the needs of its readers: college and university librarians, academic administrators, educators and students in programs of library and information science, and others interested in academic librarianship.—**Peter Hernon and Gloriana St. Clair**