



Editorial

A. F. Kuhlman was the first editor of *College & Research Libraries*. In his introductory editorial fifty years ago Kuhlman listed the purposes of the new journal. Some still apply: provide news, publish articles, build bridges of understanding, promote research, and improve the practice of academic librarianship. The news function changed with the formation of *College & Research Libraries News* in 1966.

Most of the goals are ongoing, but one has been realized—"help to develop the ACRL into a strong and mature professional organization." In a contributed article, "ACRL's Fiftieth Anniversary: For Reflection, for Celebration, and for Anticipation," Edward G. Holley describes how the association has grown and prospered.

Several authors who will be contributing articles to each issue of this anniversary volume have noted a similarity of themes between then and now. In Kuhlman's first editorial, he discussed the crisis in higher education. In this issue, Barbara B. Moran follows the crisis of the late 1930s up to the present and beyond. One can infer from her title, "The Unintended Revolution," that the crisis has continued.

Legendary figures played a major role as authors in the inaugural issue: Robert B. Downs, Ralph E. Ellsworth, Lawrence Clark Powell, Louis Shores, Carl M. White, and Louis Round Wilson discussed everything from buildings, rare books, and library education, to trends, and buying for large and small libraries. As time passes, the type of contributor has changed greatly: today many more articles are written by women, coauthors are much more prevalent, and geographical representation has broadened. In "A Statistical Profile of *College & Research Libraries*," Paul Metz provides a detailed account of what *C&RL* was and is.

It has been a fascinating fifty years. In a reprint of Fremont Rider's article "The Future of the Research Library," taken from his book, *The Scholar and the Future of the Research Library*, one can see how magnificent, creative ideas sometime fade in the full glare of reality. Yet Rider's microformat solution to the access and storage problems facing librarians in the 1940s remains as a voiceless tribute to the inquiring minds in our profession.

Guest editorials by previous editors David Kaser, Richard M. Dougherty, Richard D. Johnson, and C. James Schmidt will appear in the next four issues. Each will also select an article published during his tenure as editor to appear as a reprint.

Many librarians have made *C&RL* into the premier research journal in academic librarianship. From all the past editors to all authors, past and future, a debt of appreciation must be passed along. You have improved service, created knowledge, and provided understanding. Our clients, our libraries, and our institutions have benefited enormously. As we all carry out the promise inherent in the unintended revolution, let us stay true to our heritage and build onto our already strong service ethos.

Harold L. Leupp, Librarian at the University of California, worded it better fifty years ago:

I have never heard the idea advanced that Omar was a university librarian, but certainly he expressed the heartfelt yearnings of many such, struggling to render adequate service in unadaptable tombs of literature, when he warbled to his girl friend:

Ah Love! could thou and I with Fate
conspire

To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things
entire,
Would not we shatter it to bits and then
Re-mould it nearer to the Heart's Desire!

Happy fiftieth anniversary, *College & Research Libraries*.

CHARLES MARTELL

From our genesis we have been strangely aloof from introspection. The reasons are fairly apparent. We have not had much time for self-analysis. For half a century our energies were absorbed in developing methods for administering our geometrically growing collections and for making them available to a wide variety of users for a wide variety of purposes. The task was (and is) a difficult and complex one. In considerable measure we have succeeded. We are undeniably excellent housekeepers.

—G. Flint Purdy, "Investigating Library Problems" (March 1940), p.141

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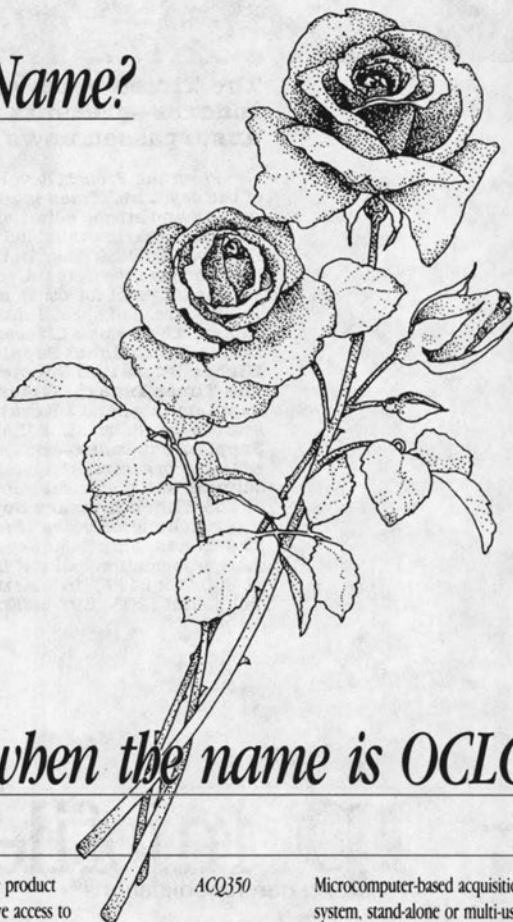
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