

From the pen of the Editor

Ralph Scott, Editor

I was recently reading an article in the *Library Quarterly* on transversality and the role of the library as fair witness. The author contends that the more we move online “the greater more there will be the need for the kind of external, trusting party” called the fair witness. Libraries because of their “plurality and authority {are} well suited to this role.” This has certainly been true of libraries up to the present. As we continue be under attack from those who would have us only provide narrowly focused access to materials, we constantly need to be reminded of why libraries were founded and the key role they play in the free transfer of ideas. We want to always not just provide a viewpoint, but a place where varied viewpoints can be examined. There will always be points of view expressed in public media, what is needed is a place where trusting relationships can grow. One cable network describes itself as “Fair and balanced.” Fair and balanced is the true “value” that libraries and librarianship can add to the growing polarized cacophony. This is especially true as North Carolina transitions into a multi-lingual society.

This is the second issue under my editorship and it is devoted in part to reporting the 2005 North Carolina Library Association Conference in Winston-Salem. This issue is numbered volume 63, numbers three and four and completes our annual offering for 2005. The next issue will be volume 64 and will be published in early 2006. The Editorial Board has received a number of positive comments on the impact *North Carolina Libraries* makes to the profession. Please let the editor and the Editorial Board know of your issues and concerns about our work. We very much appreciate your kind comments and look forward to hearing from you.