

NORTH CAROLINA LibRARIES

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To: *North Carolina Libraries* Editorial Board
From: Frances Bryant Bradburn, editor
Topic: Schedule Changes

After a great deal of conversation with others and soul-searching myself, I have decided that the best way to handle the financial problems of both *North Carolina Libraries* and the Association is to publish only one more issue this biennium. This would allow NCL to come close to breaking even for the biennium and start the new biennium with a budgeted \$8,000 per issue. While this action is not necessarily without risk (the Association *could* ask NCL to cease publishing any issue to make up for a temporary shortfall of funds), I feel that the potential goodwill far outweighs that possibility. First, as one of the major financial players in the Association, we are modeling fiscal responsibility. Second, we will have the opportunity to begin afresh with the Spring 1995 issue, and not have to try to make up \$8000 somewhere in the next biennium. Finally, we are sending a message to the Association membership that money is tight across the organization, especially in an area that must rely on the public (US Postal Service) and private sectors (printing, paper, etc.); consequently some priorities must begin to be considered. Frankly, I see the journal in a win/win situation here, especially since we have made this decision ourselves rather than forcing the Executive Board or Finance Committee to ask this of us.

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Above is the letter that determined the fate of this issue of *North Carolina Libraries*. You have before you a double issue — the first ever in the history of the North Carolina Library Association. In order to remain fiscally responsible, the journal will have only seven issues this biennium; we will return to our quarterly format with the Spring 1995 issue. While we are delighted with our additional funding for the 1995-97 biennium, we apologize for the inconvenience that this double issue will cause — as fellow professionals, we are aware of the angst this will create for the serials librarians among us. We can only assume that the ends will justify the means of this decision.

More importantly, however, this double issue is a reminder of how tenuous the perks of membership in the North Carolina library community may be. Without the commitment of ALL of us to the financial well-being of our association, whether it be "our" conference year or not, we run the risk of losing the major source of our statewide professional development opportunities and our personal job-related support groups. Let us vow that this double issue of *North Carolina Libraries* will set only the precedent of increased financial commitment to the North Carolina Library Association, not the precedent of budget cutting at the expense of our national reputation and professional knowledge-base.