

Another Interview With Jon Lindsey

A year ago you became editor of *North Carolina Libraries*. What has happened with the publication during this year?

During 1979 *North Carolina Libraries* has published the final issue of volume 36, four issues of volume 37, indexes for volumes 34-36, and a directory of individual members. In addition, on recommendation of the Board of *North Carolina Libraries* the NCLA Executive Board approved underwriting the costs to provide *Tar Heel Libraries* as a benefit of membership in NCLA. Since June all personal members of NCLA have received *Tar Heel Libraries*.

What is the significance of this amount of production?

This has provided the membership of NCLA with a journal on a regular bases, and the provision of *Tar Heel Libraries* is an attempt to maintain currency through the calendar which is published in it. Through cooperation between the two publications we feel that NCLA members are kept current on a variety of subjects. Also, at this point, the editorial board of NCL can concentrate on developing articles from the ten sections of NCLA which speak to the interests and needs of the association.

What are the weak areas of NCL?

Published elsewhere in this issue (page 53) is a report of the reader survey of NCL which was done at the biennial meeting at Charlotte. Some of the weaknesses of the journal are evident there, and the board will be working during the coming year to strengthen these areas.

You seem to have skirted the question.

Since you put it that way, one of the areas of weakness editorially is appeal to school librarians. I am not sure that the articles which have been published in the past year have had a lot of appeal for this large group in NCLA. We are making some efforts to correct this in the next issue which will have a special feature on literature for children and young adults. In the Fall we will emphasize bibliographic instruction. I hope that school librarians will provide information about how they are doing bibliographic instruction, and with what success.

Another weakness of the past year could be seen in terms of the geographical spread and professional function of those whose articles were published. We hope to maintain a balance on this, but at the same time we are limited if we do not receive articles from a cross section of the profession.

- Q. What kinds of articles are you looking for?
- A. Articles which speak to the professional interests of librarians, and which speak to the specific concerns of librarians.

Q. That sounds nice, but can you be more specific?

- A. To be more specific is difficult, but there are some issues in North Carolina which need to be addressed by librarians. For instance, Bill O'Shea recently spoke to the issue of cooperation. In this issue of NCL we are speaking to the question of professional preparation for functioning as a librarian, and have included an article by Louise Boone about the certification of public librarians in North Carolina. In a future issue of the journal we hope to look at the dynamics of community school libraries and how public and school library administrations may deal with this legislative reality.

The mail ballot to the membership of NCLA (see results on page 10) raises a primary issue which librarians must face. This is not the question of the Equal Rights Amendment, but it is really the question of to what degree or even shall the association become an advocate of a social or political issue. Openly becoming an advocate appears to some librarians to violate their traditional image as objective, nonjudgmental disseminators of information. Other issues which affect the future of librarians throughout the state are those connected with formulas for federal and state funds, unionization either through direct unions or obliquely through organizations like the North Carolina Association of Educators, and the implications of a National Libraries Act.

Q. Well, you did manage to be more specific. Are there any other issues which quickly come to mind?

- A. An issue which confronts the North Carolina Library Association is the question of whether it is meeting the needs of its membership. The association may need to face the question of its structure/organization and whether this meets or speaks to the needs of librarians in the state. As the largest state library association in the Southeast, North Carolina has the responsibility to maintain a high level of leadership.

Q. What is the role that *North Carolina Libraries* should play in facing these issues?

- A. First, the journal plays a role by calling attention to the issues. Secondly, it plays a role as the membership of the association is willing to take the time to use the journal as a forum for the discussion of the issues. Third, the journal plays a role as a regional and national voice.

In addition to being a focus for facing issues of librarianship, the journal has an important role to play in being responsible to its constituency by communicating to members of the North Carolina Library Association the decisions of the NCLA Executive Board and the activities of committees and sections.

How should the membership of NCLA assume its responsibility?

One avenue is to take the time to write so that colleagues can be made aware of the various positions available on any one issue. Another avenue is to involve oneself in the activities of the sections of the association. A third avenue is to respond critically to items which appear in the journal. A final avenue is to be directly aware of the section editors and to respond to them with ideas, articles, information, and evaluations of the journal's response to membership needs. We have an excellent editorial board and a group of individuals who are responsive to their sections and section interests.

Jonathan A. Lindsey, editor

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