

# A Foreword

This issue of *North Carolina Libraries* was planned to focus on children's literature and children's library services. The editor for the section on children's library issues, Cate Howard, is a children's librarian in the Wake County Public Library. Cate solicited articles from among children's librarians across the state.

The issues addressed in the section range from Suzanne Newton's penetrating appraisal of why children's reading is important for the development of reflective adults to a bibliography for children's sports. Also included is an administrative appraisal of children's librarians. Historians will be pleased to have an account of the children's collection at UNC-C.

Ironically one of the critical issues facing some libraries in N.C. arises out of the children's domain. The questions, still unresolved, which are involved in the Columbus County/*Wifey* issue, the Greensboro schools issue, and for some the issue at the base of school library-public library are questions related to children's right of access to information. Librarians and newspapers have a great deal in common in the appropriate defense of First Amendment rights. Librarians should take seriously their responsibility to assure that this fundamental right is not infringed.

If you read the May issue of *American Libraries*, you will see how on target NCL is in raising questions about the effectiveness of computer applications to library functions. You will be instructed by the perspective and research represented in Paul Knight's review of cataloging capabilities on OCLC and RLIN.

Again, we call to your attention the cover design—produced by Ron I. Jones, children's librarian, Wake County Public Library.

Jon Lindsey, editor