

Autumn Issue Worth Celebrating

So Labor Day is past, and we have begun a new year—new school year, that is, and therefore a time of celebration. Not just as parents whose children are headed back to school, but also the appreciation we get to feel as the summer’s heat subsides and we start looking forward to crisp evenings, steaming cups of coffee, and warm conversation with friends.

It’s been a while since *North Carolina Libraries* published two issues within the same calendar year—2008, I believe. That time has passed quickly, but we would like to reinvigorate the journal this season too, in hopes that we can sustain more scholarship and news for libraries in our state. To that end, this issue is offered for the fall of 2024, and planning has already begun for the next issue in the spring of 2025. Wish us luck, and contribute a manuscript!

The present issue contains articles which provide an overview of issues facing libraries of their type—academic, community college, and special libraries—at this moment. We are taking a cue from volume 25, number 4, which provided a perspective on the 25th anniversary of the founding of *North Carolina Libraries* to examine the state of our state. Many thanks to Kathelene Smith for probing how special libraries define themselves and continue vital service in 2024. Rich Garafolo describes a pivotal moment for NC’s community college libraries as many of them implement Evergreen, a shared open source ILS that serves as the backbone for NC Cardinal. And thanks also to a team of ACRL-NC authors who provide a snapshot of some of the most important issues facing academic libraries these days: artificial intelligence, construction and renovations, and changing staffing patterns.

As in the last issue, we continue some columns and introduce a new one. *Wired to the World* and *Lagniappe* return, with the first featuring ways to



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integrate AI into research and the second showcasing a leisure reading collection focused on horror (just in time for October!). *North Carolina Books* return as well. Watch for an introduction to the new book reviews editor in the spring issue! The new column this issue is actually a return to a column that *North Carolina Libraries* ran in the past: *In View Of*. For this new installment, we first visit the renovated UNCW Library.

Ideas for future articles or special issues? Feel free to contact me at editor@nclaonline.org or 252-737-2728. Happy Fall, Y’all!

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor and mailed to:
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We reserve the right to edit all submissions. If you are interested in writing for *North Carolina Libraries* or would like consideration for news and product information, please send brief information to the editor at the above address.