

From the Editor

Plummer Alston "Al" Jones, Jr., Editor

alendar year 2002 was a year of transition for *North Carolina Libraries*. We published three electronic issues in Volume 60: Nos. 1 & 2 (Spring/Summer 2002); No. 3 (Fall 2003); and No. 4 (Winter 2002). All three issues were cumulated into the print annual for 2002.

The graphic designer/layout artist for the electronic issues and the annual print cumulation was Pat Weathersbee of Books Etc. in Winterville, North Carolina. She also is the liaison for *North Carolina Libraries* to Walker-Ross Printing of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, the printer of the annual print volume. She began her tenure with the journal during Frances Bradburn's editorship, working strictly in a print format. Although she had misgivings about working in the electronic format, she agrees with me that the electronic format has distinct advantages. While costs for graphic layout/design continue, the costs for postage, mailing, and printing are eliminated for the quarterly issues.

NCLA Treasurer Diane Kester and I have been anxiously watching the figures for the production of *North Carolina Libraries* for the 2002 calendar year. We printed 1,500 issues of the print annual at a cost of approximately \$6,970. The layout charge for the print annual was \$1,200. For a total of \$8,170, each of the 1,500 issues costs approximately \$5.45. At 133 pages, the cost per page for the print annual was approximately four cents, far less expensive than the cost of a single photocopied page!

Reflections on Going Electronic

Each quarterly issue of *North Carolina Libraries* during the 2001 budget year cost approximately \$7,000 per issue or \$28,000 for four issues. During the 2002 budget year after going electronic, the three electronic issues cost approximately \$2,000 per issue or \$6,000 total for layout and \$8,170 for the annual, including layout and printing, for a total of \$14,170.

Going electronic has literally cut the publication budget for *North Carolina Libraries* in half, without sacrificing quality or quantify of information made available to our readership. For estimation purposes, it is safe to estimate the cost per electronic issue at \$2,000 and the cost for the print annual at \$8,000. The NCLA Finance Committee can use the figure of \$16,000 as the budget for 2004.

We would not have been able to publish such a quality journal at such a reasonable price without the help of an all-volunteer staff. We owe a debt of gratitude to the *North Carolina Libraries* Editorial Board, including editors Joline Ezzell from Duke University; Mike Van Fossen, Paula Hinton, and Page Life from UNC-Chapel Hill; Diane Kester from East Carolina University; and Joan Sherif from Northwest Regional Library. Michael Cotter, librarian emeritus from East Carolina University, served as Indexer; Dorothy Hodder of New Hanover Public Library, as compiler of the North Carolina Books column; Suzanne Wise of Appalachian State University, as the compiler of the Lagniappe/North Caroliniana column; and Ralph Scott of East Carolina University, as compiler of the Wired to the World column. Terry Brandsma of UNC-Greensboro has been our Web master, working in close contact with graphic/layout designer Pat Weathersbee to make *North Carolina Libraries* available on the Web through the NCLA Web page within a few days of receiving the electronic file. Although not a member of the *North Carolina Libraries* Editorial Board, NCLA Secretary Martha Davis has supplied the NCLA Executive Board minutes for each issue right on schedule.

The print annual included ten feature articles, three columns each of From the Editor, From the President, North Carolina Books, Lagniappe/North Caroliniana, Wired to the World, and NCLA Minutes, as well as the Index to Volume 60. In an era when organizations are expected to be fiscally sound, the NCLA membership can take great pride in the knowledge that *North Carolina Libraries*, even after going electronic, has maintained its standing as a quality state library association journal with national and international readership.