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Snapshot of Library Collaboration

Ivan Gaetz

Collaborative Librarianship, igaetz@regis.edu

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Snapshot of Library Collaboration

Ivan Gaetz (igaetz@regis.edu)
General Editor, *Collaborative Librarianship*

Pulling together the articles for this issue of *Collaborative Librarianship* and completing another full year of publication, I was struck by the depth and diversity of collaboration represented in Vol. 3, no. 4. A first point: the vigor and intensity of commitment exhibited by librarians in partnering one way or another has historical depth. Grover points this out in his account of the good work of “Latin American Library Areas Studies,” beginning in the 1950s. A second point: diversity is represented in how librarians and healthcare professionals share the vitally important mission of information delivery to communities in developing regions of the world. This type of partnership is needed now more than ever in regions of Africa’s most populous nation (and beyond), as argued by Ngozi Ukachi. And of course, collaboration builds on new developments in technology even as they raise new challenges. With the onset of the e-book revolution, questions and concerns surface as to how libraries can provide access to these new resources while attending to the restrictions placed on e-loans and contending with other limits in purchase/lease options required by vendors and aggregators. Wicht’s article deals squarely with these issues, as does the Greg Doyle interview. Further, Wirth’s piece on the technology-driven open access movement – fundamentally a collaborative initiative – discusses new opportunities for libraries to work together with faculty and others to provide leadership in scholarly communication.

Filling in the details of this glimpse into library collaboration are the Marvin Pollard interview on consortial funding models for acquisitions, the Engard column on collaborative fundraising, and reviews of two publications on social media applications for libraries.

This snapshot reveals something of the scope of library collaboration: on the existential level of life and death struggles of communities, on the cutting edge of technology, and on a number of fronts in between. In all of this, I am also struck by the fact that library collaboration is not a passing fad – the

latest model or theory in organizational management. It has been around for decades, and still today represents librarianship at its finest, and it will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and of communities.

If you want to see a snapshot of library collaboration across a spectrum of services offered by librarians, this issue fits the bill. And, of course, you are always welcomed to contribute articles that further expand this portrayal.