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Passing the Torch

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With this issue I conclude my service as General Editor of *Collaborative Librarianship*. Many of the seven years at the helm were with Co-General Editor, Valerie Horton, a very enriching partnership, I must say. Over the years Valerie often remarked, “Working on the journal is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of my career as a librarian.” I heartily agree. And reflecting on this a little, a few reasons have surfaced as to why this is so.

First, this work involved terrific people in Colorado and elsewhere, work that generates a certain sense of integrity and authenticity in that the journal is not only about collaboration, it exemplifies it. My article in this issue offers a brief historical sketch of *Collaborative Librarianship* and concludes with an acknowledgment of those colleagues who participated in the journal’s formation and who have brought about the publication of its 28 issues. Deep, sincere appreciation is expressed to them.

Second, the mission of the journal to promote collaboration is truly good in every respect. Collaboration brings about solutions to problems, fosters creative thinking, expands resources and service opportunities, develops new ways to advance what librarians have always done well, and imagines how together we can accomplish what otherwise is impossible. In the process, collaboration helps transform librarians and libraries. All good.

Third, through the journal, my professional horizons have been broadened in ways I had not imagined. From connecting with the members of our Advisory Board, to working across libraries of all types in Colorado and elsewhere, engaging some amazing innovators in the field of librarianship, and in working on articles with writers from regions around the globe, my perspectives on the world of libraries have been enriched and deepened.

Fourth, given the importance of open access and an increasing emphases on scholarly communication, especially (but not solely) among academic libraries, it has been gratifying indeed to see librarians at home and abroad, and others connected to librarianship, contribute to our body of professional literature. And, in various ways, as an editor, I have had the privilege to mentor some budding writers entering the realm of scholarly communication, and also hone my own skills in the process.

Fifth, it has been exciting to learn what colleagues in the profession are experiencing and thinking, and to profile in the journal a vanguard of innovation. Examples abound throughout the pages of *Collaborative Librarianship*, but the early columns of Mitchell Davis and Nicole Engard now come to mind, as do the always provocative and insightful contributions of Lori Ayre.

I could go on, but these few reasons give you a clear sense, perhaps, of the enriching environment of librarianship that *Collaborative Librarianship* explores and advances.

I cannot step away without special recognition of two of the most remarkable people connected with the journal, two who are not acknowledged near enough for the amazing work they do behind the scenes. Janet Lee has served as a copy editor from the early days, not only providing spectacular copy-editing in an amazing turnaround time, but also by making connections...
with authors, promoting the journal, and offering ideas that always made the journal better. Joe Kraus has been in charge of the technical aspects of the journal even before the first issue appeared, initially offering training in the applications of OJS, then doing the layout for every item published, all 249 of them, over seven years. Both Janet and Joe have been a delight to work with and are exemplars of professionalism and collaboration. I, and the journal, could not have been more fortunate.

So with these reflections, I gladly turn things over to Michael Levine-Clark and Jill Emery, our new Co-General Editors. I look forward to working with them as Collaborative Librarianship moves into its next phase of development and service.