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Community Practice as Developed from Collaboration

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Community Practice as Developed from Collaboration

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This issue of *Collaborative Librarianship* focuses on communities of practice collaborating to improve our engagement with one another. One editorial describes the development of information literacy programs to combat unreliable sources of information, and the important role librarians can play in that effort both locally and nationally. Another editorial cautions us to recognize that collaboration and the collaborative process are often fraught with undertones not fully appreciated by the majority of librarians. Collaboration can be seen as a power structure that continues to marginalize and minimize voices both within and without our community of practice.

Our From the Field reports show how community involvement results in more significant exhibitions of important works, how collections can be broadened and deepened through collaborative efforts, and how a community of practice regarding usage statistics management and definition becomes stronger and more informed.

The research articles in this issue examine a range of collaborations at a small library, across libraries, and between libraries and their publisher and vendor partners. One article looks at how the collaborative process used in a rural library in Alaska helps develop better working relationships and training opportunities for both librarians and library staff, another describes a fruitful engagement between MLIS students and the National Library of Medicine, while the

third explores how a group of publishers, resource providers, and librarians works together to develop better practices for electronic data control.

In all aspects of this issue, collaborative work results in developing and improving the communities of practice within which we work and grow. Given the multiple ambiguities many feel about the immediate future both inside of the United States and from outside of it, our ability to work well together and find better mechanisms for collaboration are even more crucial than ever.

