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Leading the Way

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Editor's Desk

Eric C. Shoaf

Leading the Way

The renewed emphasis on leadership within the division has prompted a detailed examination of the latest trends from the profession in this, our special *Library Leadership & Management*

(*LL&M*) theme issue on leadership. It is a mix of information, all of which is useful in exploring our theoretical sense of leadership opportunities within the profession, and in practical applications of leadership at different levels of library management.

A round table discussion led by *LL&M* coeditor Pixey Anne Mosley includes two longtime Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) stalwarts and a newcomer to discuss the division's name changes and how leadership is really an issue throughout all types of libraries and with the American Library Association. It presents a mix of thoughtful reflection that is compelling and meaningful. In an exciting development, a group from the 2008 LLAMA Emerging Leaders Program reports on their project to develop a set of core leadership competencies for the library profession in which they successfully examine the literature, survey best practices, and articulate a set of competencies that will generate significant discussion within the profession. It demonstrates the talent of this LLAMA Emerging Leaders group and they forged a strong group work ethic in accomplishing this.

On the lighter side, we include a rather informative, if unscientific, "at the moment" survey of what librarians and their institutions throughout the profession are doing to provide leadership. The results include responses from public, academic, and special libraries as well as those from consultants and professional associations. It provides a most interesting snapshot of how libraries are leading

the way at this exciting time in history. Christopher Raab offers a practical and self-directed approach to identifying and participating in leadership opportunities. His R.O.L.L. matrix provides a useful mnemonic as well as more than a dozen different ways for librarians at all levels of professional development to become more active leaders.

In an article describing a homegrown leadership development program, Alex Merrill and Elizabeth Lindsay report on a successful program for engaging librarians within the organization and for offering and encouraging active leadership. There is an approach that could be easily tailored and offered at other institutions. Our regular columnists also have interesting ideas about leadership, as reflected in their usual distinctive examinations of the latest trends.

At *LL&M*, several of you may have noticed our new LLAMA News format at the end of the journal. Coeditors Pixey Anne Mosley and Wendi Arant-Kaspar have worked to create a more readable approach to news from LLAMA sections. This approach formats the news by subject area instead of by specific committee and the result is more dynamic reporting on activities around the division. Committee and section heads are encouraged to continue reporting news to Pixey and Wendi (contact information can be found at the front of this journal). We welcome Justine Wells as the new production editor for our journal at the ALA home office in Chicago. Justine is one of the key "behind the scenes" people who makes sure the journal appears on time and in proper format for every issue. Finally, we received many comments about the new name and look of the journal, all of them, I am pleased to report, positive. While our cover masthead will remain, we do plan to offer a changing photo or graphic for the cover of each future issue. As I commented last time, change is good.

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