Editor’s Introduction

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Phew! The inaugural issue of Library Leadership & Management (LL&M) was completed in time, the new OJS system is accessible and functional and Pixey and I made it over the first hurdle. Now we are on to the second issue with a concerted effort to introduce some new features and new perspectives.

A significant change is the hybridization of a peer review-editor review model for LL&M, in an effort to accommodate the call for academic rigor and scholarship with the need for practical and innovative discussions and best practices in the profession. Pixey discusses the motivation and strategy for this endeavor in “To Peer Review or Not To Peer Review: An Editor’s Dilemma.” While the creation of an LL&M Editorial Board is pending the review of nominees by the LLAMA President and Executive Board, the editors have asked several experts in the field to review submissions that have already been received. As of this issue, there has been significant interest from scholars in the form of multiple submissions with requests to take the peer-review track. Readers will no doubt see the fruits in future issues.

Gail Kennedy both looks forward to the future or the profession and reflects back on her LLAMA presidency and her early career in the President’s Message with “A Call to Leadership” for all librarians and members of LLAMA. She asserts that it is a critical time for librarians to take the lead, through innovating services, supporting emerging technologies, seeking partnerships outside the profession and reinventing libraries and librarianship.

LL&M’s Associate Editor, Beth Blakesley, follows Gail’s lead and addresses the future of the profession with her segment “New and Noteworthy” and advice on “Planning for the Future: Sources to Explore About Succession Planning.” She reviews classics on the topic and discusses new publications that focus on leadership development and sustainable leadership.

In this issue, we also unveil our first media feature. Brian Leaf, an Emerging Leader in LLAMA, interviewed Molly Raphael, the incoming President of ALA and former President of LLAMA, about her views of the profession and leadership. The interview is presented here in an audio file in Molly’s own words. Brian relays his impressions, as a new librarian, with “The Long Game: An Interview with Molly Raphael.”

As ALA gets ready to revisit New Orleans, remembering Katrina and the impact that it still has, security is is an issue at the forefront. Scott Muir provides a thoughtful and practical look at “Security Issues with Community Users in an Urban Academic Library,” examining what
happens when a academic library in an urban setting starts to see the demands of public library patrons.

Lastly, In LLAMA Spotlight, we take a look at an often overlooked source of practical and innovative librarianship. Pixey, with help from Luke Villele, discusses “ALA Poster Sessions: Innovative Ideas with an Easy Time Investment” The poster sessions are a great place to find not only groundbreaking ideas and new takes on old issues but it is also a place to identify new talent and emerging leaders. It is a quick glimpse into librarianship of tomorrow.

After you read the selections in this issue, we also want to encourage you to take a look at the programs at ALA. There is something for every interest and every professional track: http://alaannual.org/content/overview-programs-and-meetings. For those not making the trip to New Orleans, there is the opportunity to attend virtually and benefit from the expertise of scholars and professionals in the field right at your desktop: http://alaannual.org/content/ala-2011-annual-virtual-conference.

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