

EDITORIAL

A questionnaire concerning the content, appeal, readability, etc., of LIBRARY OCCURRENT, the quarterly publication of the Indiana State Library, was distributed to Indiana libraries and readers in 1978. Great response was received from individuals interested in LIBRARY OCCURRENT's format and future directions. Their responses lead to the State Library's concern for existing opinions about the content and informational needs in Indiana.

In 1979, the Executive Boards of the Indiana Library Association/Indiana Library Trustee Association began to explore the possibility of reorganizing its bi-monthly publication—FOCUS—and decided to take a look at its future direction. The ILA/ILTA Task Force appointed to develop alternative editorial policies and procedures for the improvement and effectiveness of library publications in Indiana recommended that two library periodicals be published jointly by ILA/ILTA and the State Library. Together, these three organizations laid the foundation for two reorganized publications—INDIANA LIBRARIES, the quarterly journal, and FOCUS on Indiana Libraries, the monthly news magazine.

Those involved agreed that the new quarterly journal, INDIANA LIBRARIES should be scholarly in content, and should represent various viewpoints of an issue within librarianship which is of current concern to Indiana libraries and librarians. Supported by ILA, ILTA, and ISL, this new publication will contain articles that inform librarians of scholarly opinions and current practices within the field, will allow for publication of arguments, and will present critical bibliographic surveys of professional materials. In addition, when applicable, the journal will publish short whimsical pieces based upon library philosophy. Articles selected for publication will be the ones which invite response.

This first issue has concentrated its attention on reference services in libraries. Dr. Ed Jennerich's article discusses the need within library education to improve current reference courses, and stresses the importance of the reference interview in library education. Mark Tucker, a university librarian, points to the inherent need for reference librarians to initiate user instruction, and discusses earlier research in this area. Dr. David Loertscher's short whimsical article addresses current reference desk policies. All of these topics can be rebutted, or further developed. Pat Riesenman addresses the topic of computers as a major source of reference use in libraries. Robert Logsdon and Barney McEwen's literature review is excellent in format and style. It is hoped that other review articles will be forthcoming.

Major emphasis will be placed on the following topics for the remainder of the 1981 issues and the spring issue 1982:

The Planning Process and Community Analysis (Summer)

Audio Visual Services (Fall)

Automation (Winter)

Budget and Finance (Spring)

Some of the early moments of initiating this issue brought trepidation, but I have found many friends in the Indiana library community and in the field at large who have contributed their ideas and efforts. I am not faced with numerous manuscripts that are awaiting consideration. Your support is crucial to the success of this publication. I encourage those of you who are interested in any aspect of the future topics to submit manuscripts. Contributions of major importance should be 10-15 pages double spaced. Rebuttals, whimsical pieces, and short essays should be 2-7 pages double spaced. I urge you to keep in mind the information the reader will want and that which will assist our readers in better performing library services.

In 1980, Indiana librarians supported a proposed plan for a life long learning program within the state; this journal is one positive measure in that process. It will offer chances for the entire library community to hear diverse proposals, theories, and practices which are developing within Hoosierland. Whether you are a reader or a writer, I look forward to receiving your suggestions, comments and ideas. Address all communications and materials for publication to Jill P. May, Editor, INDIANA LIBRARIES, 118 Matthews Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

Jill P. May