

# *Editorial*

## 50<sup>th</sup> volume of LIBRI

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In 1950 the first issue of LIBRI was published by Munksgaard International Publishers, Copenhagen, Denmark. The editors were Jean Anker, Director of the Scientific and Medical Department of the Copenhagen University Library, and Svend Dahl, Director General of the Royal Library, Copenhagen. Both editors were highly regarded as scholars, especially in the fields of book history and library history. As a result, both these topics were mentioned as important topics for contributions in the prospectus for the journal.

However, like many other professional journals, LIBRI has revised its scope to reflect the changes in the library and information science community it serves. The many articles published in LIBRI during its first half-century of existence document the development of the library profession in a period of great and rapid change. Its scope is now somewhat broader than it was 50 years ago. The last several sets of editors have included editors from outside Denmark, and more recently from outside Europe. The gradual

broadening and strengthening of LIBRI over the years has made the journal a bibliographic mainstay of international publishing in the field of librarianship. Over the years as LIBRI grew in status within the library profession, Munksgaard's focus on the field of medicine led to a decision to sell LIBRI to a publisher more closely allied with the library field. In 1996, Munksgaard sold LIBRI to K. G. Saur Verlag (Munich).

The June 2000 issue of the journal will bring articles on the history of the journal. However, to mark LIBRI's golden anniversary, the editors have selected articles for the issues to reflect the history of the journal. This first issue of our 50th volume focuses on a topic as important now as 50 years ago: Freedom of expression. We are happy that so many authors accepted the invitation to contribute, and we especially want to thank Professor Beverly Lynch (UCLA) who readily accepted to work as guest editor of this issue.

Nancy R. John    Svend Larsen    Irene Wormell

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