Jennifer K. Sheehan

Editor's Note

AS MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, RBMS has elected to change the name of our annual meeting from the "RBMS Preconference" to the "RBMS Conference" to better reflect the magnitude of the event. The final Preconference, held in Las Vegas in 2014, had the theme of "Retrofit." As a fond farewell to the Preconference as we've known it, I asked cochairs Athena Jackson and Richenda Brim to offer a précis of the final Preconference. They reminded me that the *Oxford English Dictionary* defines "retrofit" as "to add (a component or feature) to something that did not have it when first constructed," which is precisely what the three articles in this issue have done: building on selected presentations from the past two Preconferences and modifying/ expanding them for print. I am, therefore, going to co-opt that preconference theme and make this issue of *RBM* one that attempts both retrofit and retrospection.

RBM has made a semiregular tradition of offering special Preconference issues, providing an opportunity for those who could not physically attend to stay apprised of what transpired. However, as former *RBM* editor Beth Whittaker mentions in her contribution to this issue, expanding technology has provided other avenues for virtual attendance, access to recordings of sessions, and the like, so the journal no longer has to fill this need. That being said, our annual professional meeting is clearly an appropriate venue for presenting new research and contemplating the most relevant issues in the field; and often, what starts out as a plenary session, short paper, or discussion group can become a springboard to scholarly publication.

You may be wondering what role retrospection will play in this issue. Well, you'll find it in two manifestations. First, I want to thank Beth Whittaker and Sid Berger, former editors of *RBM* (or *RBML*), for their contributions to this issue. As the two longest-serving editors of the journal, their combined leadership has spanned more than 40 percent of its production. To commemorate ACRL's 75th anniversary, Beth and Sid have offered their reflections on their respective tenures as editors of the journal and the ways that ACRL supported their efforts. *RBM* owes a great deal to ACRL and its staff. I'd like to echo Beth and Sid's sentiments, and to express my profound gratitude to ACRL for all of the resources that it has provided in making *RBM*/*RBML* a success over the past 29 years. The other retrospections come from Henry Raine and Arvid Nelsen, whose opinions on the

past, present, and future of the RBMS (Pre)Conference can be found in Richenda and Athena's editorial.

In some respects, this is a transitional issue for *RBM*. Not that the journal itself is changing in any radical way, but this issue reflects a number of other changes. I'm still getting my feet wet as editor; and, last fall, I simply dipped my toes in as the splendid guest editors guided the production of the issue. Even for this issue, I have the luxury of capitalizing on a queue of submissions that Beth had in hand; but, from now on, I'm on my own as editor—sink or swim. I look forward to exploring new ways to retrofit *RBM* and to see how it continues to evolve, as we solicit contributions from the variety of allied professions and special collections that the journal represents.

www.preconference15.rbms.info

RBMS²⁰₁₅

**June 23–26, 2015
Oakland & Berkeley**

Preserve the Humanities! Special Collections as Liberal Arts Laboratory

The conference will explore the role of special collections libraries in the context of larger trends in the humanities and higher education. Speakers will focus on collaborative partnerships forged amongst archivists, librarians, researchers, and teaching faculty and position libraries as laboratories for the liberal arts and sciences. We believe that, despite claims of the so-called crisis in or demise of the humanities, higher education in the liberal arts and sciences remains as sought after as ever. As stewards of cultural heritage and guardians of the historical artifacts that lie at the center of humanistic research, special collections librarians can and should play an important role in shaping liberal arts teaching and research.

Register by May 22 and save \$50!
Scholarships are available for first-time attendees.

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Photo: "Uptown Fox at Night" by Jonathan-Fisher from "Visit Oakland."

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