Farewell to Caledonia

We begin and end this issue of our journal with articles on communication. The first explores changes technology will bring; the last presents a survey of publishing opportunities in library periodicals.

In their survey article Daniel O’Connor and Phyllis Van Orden present, for the first time, information on one’s chances in getting an article published in some of our principal journals. They focus on the procedures editors follow in making that all-important decision to authors: to publish or not to publish.

While O’Connor and Van Orden call our attention to the hurdles authors face as they seek publication, F. Wilfrid Lancaster in his opening article takes us beyond this day of print on paper in looking toward the paperless society. Instead of journal articles nearly arranged in bound volumes on library shelves, these contributions will be stored in a computer and called up on demand through a terminal in the library, or even in the reader’s home.

Although the technology described may seem a long way from the print-and-paper-limited library society of today, Lancaster does point out how reviewing and refereeing of potential contributions will continue much in the same way that some journals practice today. With the on-line editing and refereeing capabilities he describes, our contributions will surely improve.

Thus as we look to the beginning of this paperless society with its electronic journals, those of us raised in the tradition of such friends as Baskerville and Times Roman will say goodbye to them and what their presence and arrangement on paper have meant to us. And here at C&RL we may even bid our own farewell to Caledonia.

R.D.J.
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