



Letters

To The Editor:

Emma Bradford Perry's guest editorial, "Why Diversity Isn't So Plain" (*College & Research Libraries* 56 [Mar. 1995]: 97-98), is right on target. The big question to me pertains to whether or not progress will be impeded as the nation moves away from big government and a federal social agenda. While I believe that trend is desirable to some extent and inevitable in the short term, diversity is not a goal that is captive to public funding. It is in our hands; in the hands of our administrators, personnel directors, search committees, and line supervisors. I think we can all agree with Emma Bradford Perry's statement of the real purpose of diversity. The difficult task of working out the specifics supporting that purpose rests with each of us.

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To the Editor:

Dave Harmeyer ("Potential Collection Development Bias: Some Evidence on a Controversial Topic in California," *College & Research Libraries* 56 [Mar. 1995]: 101-11) is somewhat disingenuous in claiming the first published use of OCLC holdings data as a basis for comparing library holdings of certain titles.

OCLC itself has for years been publishing its holdings data as indicators of title popularity, frequency, etc.—as witness page 10 of the January/February 1995 issue of the *OCLC Newsletter* (No. 213).

Hence it did not occur to me to claim novelty when using these data to compare public library holdings of certain series books ("Bad Books in Series: Nancy Drew in the Public Library," *The Lion and the Unicorn* 18 [1994]:92-102), nor again in the paper, "Bibliographic Mystery: Missing Books; Missing Author," in *Rediscovering Nancy* (Univ. of Iowa Pr., 1995).

There is less new under the sun than we may wit.

ESTHER G. BIERBAUM
Professor
The University of Iowa

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