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Editorial

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This issue is submitted for publication soon after the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting which will be covered in the next issue. It was there in cold Boston that we had a chance to see new examples of technology, have discussions with colleagues and network with new acquaintances about how libraries are performing tasks, sharing information, and being a part of the global landscape in the information industry and library profession. It is that scenario that we try and capture when we bring you conference reports. In this issue, which is truly a global snapshot of what is happening on nearly every continent you can easily conclude that things are happening.

During the last quarter several interesting meetings took place, including:

- Nigerian Library Association, Section on Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Annual Meeting.
- EDUCAUSE in Denver.
- American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) in Providence.
- Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) Fall Meeting in Portland, OR.
- Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Institutional Repository Conference.
- World Bank, Nigeria, Improving Service Delivery Workshop.

These conferences all had one major thing in common, incorporating more technology in the work performed in libraries by both library staff and users. Many sessions explored new trends, showcased products and procedures and there was an emphasis on better service to user communities and on in-house training. So, please take a trip around the work and see what is being talked about.

There are a couple of features that really touch the human soul. The first, by a team of Danish librarians and museum archivists who share their collaboration on NOKS, a searchable and historical database that incorporates the collection holdings of libraries and museums in Denmark.

The second feature by a librarian colleague in Sri Lanka gives us a personal glimpse of what she, her family, neighbors, colleagues, community and nation experienced as a result of the devastating tsunami that hit on December 26, 2004. This short essay humanizes the experiences felt in the region, and shares some vivid and heart-rending photos of how library staff members and schools are coping from the destruction caused in this brief disaster that shook the world. We are very grateful to Dilmani Warnasuriya for thoughtful reflections.

The third feature is about a large scale project by the European Union's Information Society Technologies Framework Programme 6, known as CALIMERA to coordinate 52 organisations from 42 European and neighboring countries, including local and municipal

public libraries, museums and archives, national authorities, research institutions and solutions providers in developing appropriate and innovate technologies to support their missions and constituencies.

The Around-the-World column takes us to the University of Balme in Ghana where we learn how access to the Internet was unveiled and is being used. This study confirms what we already know from other under developed regions, that Internet access is very welcome but the infrastructure to support its popularity is still ill-equipped. Cost factors, stable power supply, insufficient number of computers and learning how to use the technologies remains independently and collectively a huge challenge. This experience in an academic library reinforces how hard the staff there works to promote the best of internet access and communication to the rest of the world.

In a nutshell, you have lots to read and we welcome contributions and comments.

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