

## FOREWORD

The Editorial Board of the *Journal of Library Automation* is pleased to pay tribute to Frederick G. Kilgour who, with the able assistance of his assistant editor, Eleanor M. Kilgour, so firmly established this periodical and set its standards so high. Especially in view of the fact that in these first years of *Journal* publication, Mr. Kilgour was also designing and implementing the complex system which is the Ohio College Library Center, his achievement as first editor was remarkable. To him the Information Science and Automation Division of the American Library Association owes a great debt.

As library automation moves further into the seventies, the context of its existence changes. Ever-increasing fiscal pressures have required economic justification for every alteration of traditional practice. The mere availability of equipment, of programs and tested system design, even of skilled and experienced manpower can no longer be considered enough. Novelty, the magic word "innovation," seldom now cast a spell on those who control institutional budgets. Increasingly, in the issues of this *Journal*, we hope that emphasis will be placed on reviews of experience, retrospective evaluations of operation rather than optimistic projections made in the first bright mornings of system design. We must have reports if not of failures at least of alterations and accommodations enforced on operational systems by experience and the heavy hand of time.

It is our further hope that the *Journal* will receive more reports from public and school libraries which indicate an increasing dedication, in automation explications, to the social and educational goals of those institutions.

—AJG