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Authors

Gelfand, Julia
Riggs, Colby

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Editorial

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Holiday greetings are appropriate as you read this issue. Ramadan has passed, Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanza are approaching. We hope that this is a joyous time for you to catch up on reading, pleasurable activities and relaxing.

This issue is a full one that will captivate, entertain and inform you and it is likely that you will learn about traditions in parts of the world with which you are not very familiar.

The conference reports section is very exciting and takes a detour from some of our usual content but as our jobs and positions indicate, the more we learn about applications in related spheres of knowledge management and technology the better we will perform them in the library environment.

The Information Commons has become an important design element and emphasis as academic libraries reconfigure space and examine how students and users are utilizing the internet for academic work, entertainment and communication with friends, family and teachers. A conference on the Information Commons was recently held at the University of Southern California, and this report will fill in the gaps for those of us unable to attend.

The Frankfurt Book Fair is the largest and most international book fair in the world, held annually and one of our editors was fortunate enough to be able to attend this year and shares impressions about how that event supports 45 soccer fields worth of exhibition space, 300,000 visitors, 350,000 items on exhibit and promotes the latest in technology for books, journals, and media.

LHTN has had consistent reports of the Ethics of Electronic Information conference held annually at the University of Memphis and this year's conference suggests that copyright was the central theme. Dick Kawooya offers ideas that were discussed there.

LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Consortium's Users' Group meeting, even though it is not a major national conference, but the integration of vendors, library systems personnel and librarians makes for interesting exchanges and we read about how new digital initiatives and applications are being introduced for the benefit of the consortia. J.B. Hill shares impressions from that meeting.

The features in each of our issues are the glue of new research and what is happening at the macro level. In this issue we build on our most recent issue (LHTN, Vol. 21 No. 9) and offer two articles on the African library scene: "Tanzanian research conducted at the University of Dar es Salaam on Internet Usage"; and "How the Nigerian Education Trust Fund ICT Capacity Building Programme is Evolving". We also have a virtual tour of the new Seattle Public Library and challenges the exciting new architecture posed for information technology implementations. Finally, our last feature is a warm, compassionate interview conducted by one of our contributing editors in Nigeria and a dedicated library

pioneer who is now Director of Libraries at the University of Ghana in Lagos who reflects on his career as a library school instructor and now university administrator.

Taking us in another direction our "Around the World" column is an introduction to Armenia's first distance university with the opening nearly a year ago of Gladzor Management University and Rafayel Harutyunyan describes getting that institution ready for a new way of running an academic library.

The "New Books" column is more comforting and can suggest options for gift ideas and readers' advisory services to our colleagues. Do not forget to catch up with what is happening in our profession and with our colleagues by reading the "New & Noteworthy" column and getting out next year's calendar to note when your favorite library technology conference is taking place – perhaps you will go to a new meeting and want to be a reporter for LHTN. We welcome you to participate that way and hope to hear from you with suggestions about how we can make our next volume year an even better special read for you.

With best wishes for the holiday season and we will be back to launch Volume 22 in February 2005.

Julia Gelfand (jgelfand@uci.edu)
Colby Riggs (cmriggs@uci.edu)Co-editors