

It has become all but impossible not to notice the increasingly changing nature of the library profession. While academic librarians continue to be dedicated to serving faculty and students and ensuring the integrity of collections and catalogs, they are faced with the additional challenges of managing shifting electronic collections, serving remote users, ensuring the information literacy of a generation of learners, and attracting a new generation of librarians to the profession, among many other things.

To better prepare us for dealing with the larger issues on the horizon, the ACRL Focus on the Future Task Force was formed in fall 2001. After conducting research for more than a year across the academic library spectrum, the task force has come up with a list of seven top issues facing academic librarians. Task force chair W. Lee Hisle's article on page 714 puts forth the issues and encourages your response.

As the nature of collections and student populations continue to evolve, so do the types of positions available to academic librarians. To spotlight some of these new positions, as well as some buried treasures, *C&RL News* is happy to be launching its "Job of a Lifetime" column. In the first installment (p. 716), you'll get a peek into the world of a Semester at Sea librarian. If you know of an innovative or unusual academic library position that you think would make a good topic for the column, send your ideas to column editor Dianne Mizzy, [dianne+@pitt.edu](mailto:dianne+@pitt.edu).

Want a break from thinking about all the changes swirling around you? Why not focus on ways to change pace for a while during the ACRL National Conference? Barbara Tierney highlights tours and activities in Charlotte, "Queen City of the Southeast," on page 728.

—Stephanie Orphan, *editor-in-chief*  
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