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Revisiting the Vision

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Revisiting the Vision

I became curious last summer as I labored to implement elements of the Statewide Database Licensing Program. I knew that the impetus for this new State Library program and several others supported by LSTA funds had been OLA's *Vision 2010*. I started to wonder what progress had been made toward each of the "Call to Action" challenges articulated by the Vision 2010 Committee (see *OLA Quarterly* Fall 2001, No. 3, p. 21; <http://www.olaweb.org/quarterly/quar7-3/vicomm.shtml>).

Are those goals being met?, I wondered. Are they still relevant? Have important new challenges emerged? Because recent programs supported with State Library staff and/or funding are a direct outcome of *Vision 2010*, my interest has been more than academic.

Although only a few years have elapsed since the 2010 goals were set, I thought it would be both interesting and instructive to look at our progress, and that perhaps an article in *OLA Quarterly* might be a good opportunity to reflect on the library community's accomplishments as well as the need for additional work. In the way of so many things, my idea of "writing an article" quickly expanded to editing an issue.

Vision 2010 began in 1999, when the OLA Executive Board charged the

Vision 2010 Committee to develop a road map for the next decade. The committee took a "rational strategic approach to the planning process," conducting environmental scans to provide context, considering population, economy, and technology. The committee also looked at such issues as recruitment, and the political climate affecting information resources and infrastructure in libraries. However, members of the committee soon recognized that their real challenge was to describe how libraries must transform to become successful in a competitive environment.

The Vision 2010 Committee decided to focus on "a few giant steps" that promised to result in substantial progress in a few key areas, to help libraries remain at the "center of communities and campuses as primary providers of information services." The *OLA Quarterly's Vision 2010* issue included several thought provoking scenarios of our future, intended to stir the library community to pursue and achieve relevance and excellence in our rapidly changing world. I recommend that you re-read the issue and encourage you to participate in establishing the infrastructure and services that libraries require as we move toward the future.

The world around us has continued to change rapidly, and

libraries with it. The environment in Oregon and our world is quite different than it was four years ago. Economic and political aspects have been transformed—and both are now significantly more challenging for libraries.

In *Revisiting Vision 2010*, our author-contributors will address the progress we have made toward *Vision 2010*. Some were members of the original Committee, others have been instrumental in forwarding some aspect of the "Call to Action" goals, including members of the Senate Interim Task Force on Library Cooperation. Each has a unique and informed perspective. This issue's contributors variously address the goals of the "Call to Action," or provide their reflections and opinions about the progress we've made and what we have left to do.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to our excellent librarians and colleagues whose contributions you are about to read. I have learned much from their perceptions and observations.

I hope that the progress and challenges recounted in this issue will inspire you to momentarily leave your day-to-day tasks and step into the future of library service in Oregon. It is your support and participation that will enable the library community to fulfill the challenges of *Vision 2010*.

—Pam Horan
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Guest Editor

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