Exciting Changes are Coming to The Christian Librarian

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The Christian Librarian

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Back in 1996 I came on board the TCL team with a dream. My hope was to make TCL a peer reviewed publication. Now, many years later, I am excited to say this dream will soon become a reality! Beginning in 2009, TCL will carry peer reviewed content.

**Why Peer Review?**

Many of the institutions of ACL members do not recognize publication in a non-juried journal for purposes of promotion and tenure. This fact has kept authors who could have lent their unique voices and expertise to our journal from submitting their work here. It has also meant that ACL was not providing the fullest opportunity for enrichment to its membership – both in being published authors and in the information to be gleaned from scholarly writing.

**Will TCL Be Completely Peer Reviewed?**

No. Each issue of *The Christian Librarian* will feature clearly identified articles that have undergone the review process. TCL will continue to publish “nuts and bolts” and less scholarly articles not submitted for review as well.

**Why Not?**

*The Christian Librarian* provides a unique opportunity for entry level publication. First time authors, students and others who have valuable insight and information can get published without submitting their work to the rigorous review process. Non-juried articles, while somewhat less scholarly in tone and scope, are important in adding to our collective knowledge and culture of librarianship. It would be unfortunate to lose articles such as those about mission trips, “how we did it well” stories and short pieces on faith and its intersection with librarianship.

**How Will Peer Review Work?**

The process really begins with you – the readers of TCL and members of the Association of Christian Librarians. Peer review requires individuals willing to fill one of two distinct roles: author or reviewer. The TCL team is asking that you consider writing a 3000-5000 word scholarly article on a topic of interest in higher education librarianship to be submitted for review. We are also asking you to complete the TCL Peer Review Survey available at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nFnFPiRHM1i0I7LX7Radxg_3d_3d and to offer your expertise in reviewing articles. This survey will help us to select reviewers for the Peer Review Board. Please carefully consider your contribution to Christian librarianship in either of these arenas: as an author and as a reviewer!

Ron Jordahl, who has served in many capacities on the TCL team, from Editor in Chief to Consulting Editor, has graciously agreed to apply his wealth of knowledge to yet another new assignment. Ron will be serving as Peer Review Editor. Ron will oversee the peer review process, communicate with potential authors and the Peer Review Board. Articles submitted for review will be read and evaluated by three members of the Peer Review Board (PRB). All personal information will be removed and the papers passed to the PRB anonymously. Reviewers will then evaluate the article based on a printed rubric and give feedback. Based on the PRB evaluation, articles will be accepted for print, returned for revision or recommended for publication without review. Authors should expect this process to take a minimum of 6 months. The published article will appear in *The Christian Librarian* following final notification to the author.

The TCL team is excited and pleased to be able to offer this expanded opportunity for Christian librarians to share their expertise, knowledge and experience. If you have questions about the review process or would like more information please contact either Ron Jordahl or myself.