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Honored

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H O N O R E D

The Board of Directors of the Association of Christian Librarians honored an unsung hero when it selected Stephen P. Brown to receive the 1999 Emily Russel Award. While his contributions to ACL may be unknown by many, they are certainly known and appreciated by those who have been involved in the leadership of this Association anytime in the last twenty plus years. Perhaps no one knows all of the things he has done behind the scenes to keep this Association functioning and viable.

Steve was born April 5, 1945, in Owatonna, Minn. He graduated from Cedarville College in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. He then went on to Indiana University for his MLS in 1968. Alberta Chaffe, a founding mother of ACL, hired him as a reference librarian at Cedarville College. He was hired on a Monday and left for his first ACL Conference on the following day. After that he took two years off

to go to Germany, but has attended every ACL conference after that. His most notable accomplishment as a workshop leader was at the ACL Conference at Lookout Mountain in 1997, where he made history as a beta tester for OCLC. He was the first person to ever do a dial-up connection to demonstrate OCLC.

In 1973 Steve became Technical Services Librarian at Cedarville and went on to be Associate Director of Library Services from 1975-1986. In 1986 he became Associate Director of Library Systems and stayed there until moving to Indiana Wesleyan University in 1994 as either Head of Technical Services or Catalog Librarian. His current boss apparently isn't quite sure!

While at Cedarville Steve was active in various capacities in OHIONET and the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education. For ACL he has worn many hats! Almost every year he has given a workshop on an aspect of cataloging. Steve served as treasurer of ACL from 1975-1992. (As long as he was willing to serve, he kept being reelected.) The Board hardly knew what to do when he decided 17 years was long enough! He has also served as Circulating Editor of *The Christian Librarian* for eleven years and then as Managing Editor for several more.

Beginning in 1991 he as served as Managing Editor of *The Christian Periodical Index*. This does not begin to do credit for all he has done for CPI. In the early 1980's CPI began to look into automating the processing of data. Steve was one of those who were very helpful in examining options. Then he and Doug Butler engaged in a series of automation projects that have culminated in the electronic prod-

uct which debuted at the ACL conference in June. He has been our computer database guru at CPI for years now.

Without Steve this would never have been a reality. First of all, he worked with Harry Hahne at Library Master to get all the disparate data formats into one. Then he went through all the data to resolve problems and find errors. Actually he went through each of the 92,000+ records in the CPI database, and many entries more than once, to identify errors. He prepared the test data for BCR to work with and then sent a complete file of data for them to mount. Julie Kind says she thinks he could recite the entire CPI to us! Further indicating his dedication and commitment to CPI, he regularly drives three hours to Cedarville and twenty minutes to Taylor University to index journals that he committed to indexing that IWU does not carry. One of the

things most appreciated about Steve is his willingness to help do anything. One of his colleagues said, "He is always will-

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ing to lend a listening ear or hand whether on a personal nature, ACL-related or professionally." One thing you can always depend on is that when he says he will do something, it will get done!

When his colleagues were asked for comments, they identified several idiosyncrasies. First, don't ask Steve to look at anything close up unless he has his glasses handy! He works in the basement of the library at IWU in a room with no windows. Several times a day he has to go upstairs, wander around, get a cup of coffee, and chew the fat just to assure himself that there still is civilization. The coffee cup seems to be permanently attached to his hand.

At night they say he sits in front of his TV with one computer working on CPI and the other teaching an online course "Internet Tools" with Moose (his HUGE dog) at his feet. Now lest one thinks he does nothing but work with computers, he does have other interests. He used to talk about his son, Neal, but now he shows pictures of his granddaughter. He wishes she were nearby so he could really spoil her. He is also a certified soccer referee. His favorite sport to watch is hockey—especially the playoffs.

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It is with great pleasure that the ACL Board of Directors presents the Emily Russel Award to Stephen P. Brown