

EDITORIAL

This is the last of the 12 issues of *African research & documentation* for which I have had editorial responsibility. From issue 50, the editor will be Maureen Mahoney at the Library of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. The four years concerned have been busy ones for SCOLMA, with the Silver Jubilee conference in May 1987 and the earlier '*Maps & Mapping of Africa*' conference in April 1986 as the two major international meetings. Old ideas of establishing an acquisitions office in West Africa were revived, costed and abandoned yet again (in which connection it is interesting to read elsewhere in this issue of the Library of Congress's proposals in this area). New ideas of European co-operation under the auspices of ECAS (European Council for African Studies) were raised, and are still very much the subject of active discussion. *ARD* has attempted to chronicle all these, while trying also to keep a balance of news and views on African studies, libraries and bibliography from around the world. It is the editor who writes the editorials, but it is a team which keeps the journal going, and I should like to acknowledge the patient efforts of the Subscriptions Manager, Tom French and the successive Advertisement Managers, Ilse Sternberg and Carole Holden. Patience was very much the word for these colleagues when the editorial schedules fell behind time! I should also like to thank all those who contributed articles, news items, suggestions and advice. There were many of these, but the two I should especially like to thank for their contributions are Pat Larby and Barbara Turfan. May I encourage all those who have helped in the past, and indeed all readers of *ARD* to give their fullest support to my successor.

John McIlwaine