

Changes and good intentions

In issue 2015/3, Giovanni Di Domenico and Gabriele Mazzitelli have taken leave from the readers of *AIB studi* announcing that the scientific direction of the journal was being handed over to a new team.

We feel very honored to have been offered this responsibility, which enables us to make our best contribution in the multifaceted world of the Italian librarianship. Nonetheless, we perceive this task as an especially challenging one, in the light of the significant difficulties experienced by the most various kinds of cultural institutions of this Country, not to mention the expectations of young librarians, rooted in the increasing disillusion they have been confronted with in recent years.

Many colleagues and friends have shown their support in the early days of our assignment. Having never been confronted with this role before, we promise that we will try and make the most out of their advice.

In serving the journal for five years, our predecessors have achieved outstanding results. Among those, the conversion of the *Bollettino* to digital format, the adoption of its present title *AIB studi*, the inclusion of the renovated journal in the class A of the ANVUR scheme, and the more recent agreements with Scopus and Web of Science are particularly remarkable and testify to both passionate dedication and professional knowledge.

Throughout the preparation of the current issue we had the opportunity of testing the efficiency of the motivated and skillful Editorial staff, whose commitment – freely granted to the journal – truly deserves the gratitude of the entire library community.

We are reassured by the active presence of an Advisory board in which the various trends of library and information science are judiciously represented by members coming equally from the academic and the professional world. Last but not least, we trust in the guidance provided by readers of good will whose suggestions and criticisms are more than welcome, much as the submission of articles and reviews. This mutual collaboration is crucial if *AIB studi* should act not only for the sake of the Association members, but for the entire community of actively-engaged librarians and of those young students and researchers who are still studying with passion and proficiency. This journal aims at facilitating intergenerational cross fertilization.

To the latter, in particular, are addressed two initiatives which have been keenly supported by the CEN despite the increase in costs and work they implied. We are very pleased with their decision to carry on in spite of these circumstances.

The first big news is that *AIB studi* goes fully open access. Our predecessors had already launched the idea and discussed it with the National committee at the time. However, their proposal could not be accepted then in reason of the organisational changes underway, as well as of objective economic difficulties.

In the present situation it is our firm belief that the decision was one that could no longer be postponed for various reasons, not least because of IFLA's recommendation that OA strategies be adopted. In the first place, it appears in line with the choice of submitting the journal to the monitoring procedures of the most authoritative citational databases.



Furthermore, this opening should enhance the chances of strategic alliances with other cultural heritage communities, such as archives and museums, which have lived apart for way too long. Things look quite different nowadays thanks to the setting up of the GLAM working groups and the intersections with the Wikipedia universe.

Eventually, the open access option falls into the perspective of a growing attention to professional qualification which currently represents one of the Association's core activities. By extending the access to those who are not AIB members, the Italian library community as a whole is offered the chance of sharing thoughts on a wide spectrum of topics concerning the library and information sciences, which the journal is committed to circulate.

The other big news, which is in fact a consequence of the former, consists in the introduction of call for papers to appear in some of the most popular mailing lists both at a national and international level. We trust that, in so doing, the popularity of the journal will increasingly grow and that *AIB studi* will take full advantage of the collaboration of librarians and scholars also from other countries.

Paul Gabriele Weston and Anna Galluzzi

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