

EDITORIAL

The attention of every reader is drawn to the letter printed elsewhere in this issue of *Art Libraries Journal* regarding education for art librarianship in Iceland. In the recent special issue devoted to education for art librarianship, the *Art Libraries Journal* published an article entitled 'Education for art librarianship in the Nordic countries' in which it was stated that 'There are no librarianship programs in Iceland'. This is not true. In fact, education for librarianship is well established and flourishing in Iceland; moreover, Iceland is one of the few countries in the world where students of librarianship can take a specialised course in art librarianship.

It is very much to be regretted that such a totally misleading statement appeared in the *Art Libraries Journal*. However, neither the Editor, nor the guest editor of the special issue in question, had any reason to doubt the accuracy or authenticity of the article, which had previously been presented as a conference paper to the IFLA Section of Art Libraries' forum on education for art librarianship at Barcelona, and which the author was subsequently invited to revise prior to its publication in the *ALJ*. Conference organisers and journal editors alike cannot realistically do other than accept material, from accredited sources, in good faith.

Let it be said, then, that we are all human and prone to error even at the best of times; at other times circumstances can seem to conspire to prevent us from meeting the standards we set ourselves. In this instance there was no intention on anyone's part to overlook the achievements of our Icelandic colleagues, achievements which can now be recognised as an outstanding example of good practice which other countries would do well to follow.

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On another front it is pleasing to be able to report progress along lines which were sketched in the pages of the *Art Libraries Journal*. Rebecca Coombes' article (in vol. 18 no. 3) on art libraries in the English city of Leeds, suggested that closer cooperation between those libraries might be beneficial. Subsequently they have formed themselves into a cooperative group, Leeds Art Libraries in Cooperation (LALIC), an early task of which will be to produce a leaflet guide to art library resources in Leeds. In taking this initiative they are aligning them-

selves with other cities - among them London, Madrid, New York, and Moscow - where art libraries have found ways of working together. The *Art Libraries Journal* commends their enterprise and wishes them well.

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Since Max Marmor joined the *Art Libraries Journal* as Reviews Editor, there has been no opportunity for the regular Editor to write an editorial; no opportunity, therefore, to welcome Max or to announce his appointment, or to record gratitude to his predecessor in this role, Alex Ross. The *ALJ* will surely benefit enormously from Max's willingness to continue the good work which Alex began and sustained for some eight years.