Pritchard Chosen to Serve as Editor of portal

Sarah M. Pritchard has taken over as editor of the academic journal portal: Libraries and the Academy with the January 2009 issue. Pritchard is the Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian at Northwestern University.

A member of the editorial board for portal since 2000, Pritchard has authored more than 65 articles, reviews and compilations. She has lectured and consulted in North America, Europe and Asia on women's studies, digital services, collection development, library management and other professional issues.

The Johns Hopkins University Press is the publisher for portal, which examines the role of libraries in meeting institutional missions, explores how technology affects librarianship and scholarship, and conveys this research to academic librarians in a timely manner.

Pritchard replaces Charles B. Lowry, the executive director of the Association of Research Libraries and a professor in the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland. He formerly served as the Dean of Libraries at the University of Maryland.

“I’m excited by the opportunity to lead portal at a time when it has become so well-established, and when we are seeing such important changes in the role of libraries and information services in higher education,” says Pritchard. “It’s a real privilege to help understand these changes and to follow the lead of the great editors portal has had since its launch 10 years ago.”

Pritchard has more than 31 years of contributions to the American Library Association (ALA), including four terms as an elected member of the ALA Council, and appointments as the chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics, the Committee on Standards, the Committee on Organization, and the Structure Revision Task Force. She was elected as chair of sections within ALA’s Association of College and Research Libraries and the Reference and User Services Association. She serves actively in the Association of Research Libraries, the Coalition for Networked Information, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation Center for Library Initiatives, and a variety of other consortial and educational groups.

She has won many professional and academic awards, including ALA’s Equality Award, ACRL’s award for Career Achievement in Women’s Studies Librarianship, and the Alumna of the Year award from the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies.

Prior to her appointment at Northwestern, Pritchard was the University Librarian at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a key leader in the development of system-wide library services for the University of California. Her previous positions include the Director of Libraries at Smith College; Associate Executive Director at the Association of Research Libraries; and several public service positions at the Library of Congress.

She received her bachelor’s degree with high honors from the University of Maryland, and master’s degrees in French and in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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