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Brian Osserman* (osserman@math.ucdavis.edu). *Moduli spaces of linear series and nodal curves.*

In the 1980's, work of Eisenbud, Harris, and Mumford illuminated the importance of the study of linear series on curves in understanding the geometry of moduli space of the curves themselves. It also demonstrated the importance of understanding the degeneration of linear series as the underlying curves degenerated, leading to the development by Eisenbud and Harris of the notion of limit linear series for curves of compact type. After reviewing these ideas, I will discuss several recent advances, partially joint with Murray and Lieblich, which have led to the solution of the long-standing problem of constructing a proper relative moduli space of (limit) linear series over the moduli space of curves of compact type. (Received February 01, 2018)