

## Editorial

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The recent, highly favourable review of this journal in "Library Journal" is the best possible tribute to our first editor, Albert Prior, who was substantially responsible for the style and quality achieved in the first two years of "Serials" existence. Needless to say, he has been extremely helpful in the handover period and will continue to make an excellent contribution as member of the Editorial Board. Thanks are also due to George Bingham for his desk top publishing skills and full involvement in production activity. We wish him well in his new post and welcome aboard Bob Giberson of Dawson's who will provide the necessary Ventura input in the foreseeable future.

The new editorship will not concern itself with dramatic change but will seek to maintain quality of content, laced with a touch of innovation. Conference papers will continue to feature as a major input as will be seen from the inclusion in this issue of papers from the highly successful CD-ROM Conference held in York in September. Over eighty people attended and left better informed as to the current state-of-the-art and more aware of future technical advances designed to enhance the impact of an already successful medium.

At its last meeting further information on the September, 1990, European Serials Conference was presented to the UKSG Committee. There is a genuine desire to see this important gathering as the catalyst for increased national serials activity and the possible creation of a European Serials Group. We could well see the launching of a large multi-lingual organisation involving publishers, agents and librarians across Europe. This could be yet another useful contribution to the concept of "a single Europe" by 1992.

There were many familiar faces at IFLA in Paris. Rusty language skills were wheeled out and one systems demonstrator was seen in a state of near ecstasy having completed a full demo in French for the first time. There were good audiences for most of the papers but many of the exhibitors were not

too happy with the volume of business at the stands. This remains a perennial problem with delegates having to share their time between lectures, discussions, visits to the exhibition, social intercourse and some relaxation. By the way, can anyone top the £7 your editor had to pay for a half-pint of lager at the Conference Hotel?

It has been brought to our attention that some librarians are under the impression that the UKSG is still producing the annual Conference Proceedings as a separate publication. This is not the case and most Conference papers are now published in this periodical, usually over a couple of issues. Anyone keen to read conference proceedings should immediately take out UKSG membership to gain access to the papers.

The "Yorkshire Post" eagerly took up the CD-ROM theme following their contact with John Urquhart as Conference organiser. John obviously convinced the reporter that CD-ROM represented a quantum leap in information technology and waxed lyrical over the CD-juke box which enabled libraries to "shoe-box" large quantities of information normally occupying a substantial space. The article seized on the astonishing capacity of each disc - 128,000 pages - and highlighted the 240-disc juke box installed at the British Library as a major breakthrough in information storage and retrieval. In all the excitement over the "white heat of technology" the reporter regrettably failed to mention that the Conference was launched under the UKSG banner. An unfortunate omission but the "YP" gave the event a full 30 column inches. Good PR, John!

The Library of Congress has written to Jill Tolson asking for copies of all earlier issues of "Serials". As we are keen to increase exposure and sales in North America, this request, together with favourable reviews by Americans, form a useful prelude to a coming sales campaign designed to increase circulation and membership.

*John Cowley*