

Editorial

Welcome to the March issue of *Serials* which comes to you just prior to the Annual Conference. Dennis Pilling, the Deputy Editor, and I will be at Heriot-Watt and hope to meet as many *Serials* readers as possible. If you have any ideas about topics which the journal does/should cover, please let us know about them — and, especially, please would any budding authors make themselves known to us. We are very keen that *Serials* should include as many contributions from UKSG members as possible. After all who is better in touch with the concerns of the profession than the members themselves?

One new development for this issue is the 'Committee Report' section which is designed to keep you informed of the issues which are being discussed at UKSG Committee meetings. An awful lot of business is transacted at these meetings which is of direct relevance to you as members of the Group and this will allow you to keep in touch with what's going on.

Reintroduced to this issue is the 'Profile' which, in this instance, talks to Mieko Yamaguchi, a member of both the Committee and the Education Working Group. My thanks to Mieko for agreeing to 'bare her soul' to us.

Please also note the consultation on the Annual Conference timetable. This arises from questions which have been asked about the duration of the Conference — should it remain a four-day event as at present, or would more delegates be able to attend if the meeting were shorter? A questionnaire is included as an insert in this issue. Please make sure that you fill it in and return it to Jill Tolson, the UKSG Administrator, so that your views can be taken into account.

Articles in this issue cover a wide span of topics. BIDS — the Bath University, ISI Data Service — which is networked via JANET to more than 50 academic sites allows 'virtually unlimited end-user access to a nationwide dataset'. The article describes the databases which are available and the facilities offered by JANET.

Mick Osborne of the BLDSO provides a brief account of the Copyright Cleared Service which is now in operation and the benefits available from its use. **Barbara Humphries** gives some pointers on the benefits to be gained, and the dangers to be aware of, in the automation of serials management — an area which more and more of us are getting into.

Four of the articles in this issue link up to provide an overview of an area which is dear to all our hearts — budgeting. The situation in the polytechnic environment is explained by **Peter Brophy** from Lancashire Polytechnic who describes the process by which funds are allocated throughout such institutions and how the library's share is decided. **Ian Lovecy** of University College of North Wales at Bangor provides a similar picture of the university sector and adds some useful hints on how to exploit the politics of the situation. Politics is an area which one would have thought even more important for **Paul Catcheside** who looks at public library budgeting but apparently organisational style and culture play more important parts than the political colour of the local authority's ruling party. Finally in this section comes the view for special libraries who appear to have the worst deal of all with budgets not only shrinking but, in some cases, arbitrarily cancelled. **Jacqueline Cropley** provides pointers on how to minimise the impact of constant justification for budgets and on how to make friends with the right people. All in all, an area of interest for all UKSG members.

All this combined with the regular features — News from North America, People, Bookshelf — provides an interesting mix which I hope you will enjoy. And, once again, any material which you would like to share with your fellow UKSG members will be gratefully accepted and considered for publication in future issues. I would particularly welcome reactions from participants to the papers presented at Annual Conference and any material relevant to the issues discussed as they will feature prominently in coming issues.

Jonathan Barker