

Editorial

A flying visit to the Frankfurt Book Fair once again confirmed that this annual marathon is only for those with stamina. With nine thousand publishers in a series of gigantic halls, it has to be seen to be believed.

The overall impression was of a publishing world in good shape and prospering, and if the size and opulence of the 'big league' stands are a yardstick, they must be exceedingly prosperous.

Primarily a bookish occasion, there is nonetheless much of interest for serials people, as all the major journal publishers are present.

Where two or more were gathered together the burning topic of conversation was the final purchase agreement between Dawson and Faxon US, thus bringing to an end months of uncertainty and speculation, not least for the Faxon staff.

While the printed word still 'rules OK', down in the basement something stirred in the form of a large hall devoted to electronic media. This was impressive and aroused great interest. How long before the change of name to the Frankfurt Online Fair?

Returning to the mundane problems of everyday life, one old perennial problem amongst

serial librarians is what to do with unwanted journals - single issues, volumes and back sets. CD-ROM, document delivery and lack of funds must have increased the difficulties of finding a home for hard copy journals.

Some will have a market value, while many others are welcomed as gifts by libraries in the developing countries. The great problem is getting the right journal to the right end user.

We are grateful to Keith Nockels, Serials Librarian, Royal Society of Medicine, whose article on pages 253 outlines the problems and suggests solutions.

Serials would like to open up a discussion. If you have any views, please write to us. Do you successfully dispose of your unwanted journals - if so, how? What is happening to the back issue dealers? Are their warehouses overflowing with back issues and are they still buying more? Who are they? What is your experience of charities like International Campus Book Link? Do you use a cooperative scheme for disposal? We look forward to hearing from you.

John Merriman

UKSG News

Committee news

The Committee is very pleased to welcome Peter Williams of Mechanical Engineering Publications as a co-opted member. Apart from the three executive officers and nine elected members, the Committee is eligible to co-opt up to four other members. Peter served on the Committee last year and his presence strengthens the publishing area among the wide range of expertise represented on the Committee.

18th Annual Conference, 3-5 April 1995, Exeter

Following on from the success of 1994's visit to Manchester, UKSG has devised another varied programme encompassing the broad interests of the Group's members.

The venue for the 18th Annual Conference is the new Peter Chalk Centre at Exeter University, and a packed three-day programme has been