



News from the European Federation of Serials Groups

A European Tour of Serials Groups

The UKSG has a long history of representing the interests of those involved with serials within the United Kingdom, while NASIG has been very active in North America. In recent years a number of other groups have been set up within Europe to undertake a similar range of activities. What follows is a brief description of these groups.

Finland

The Finnish Serials Group (FSG) has the Finnish Research Library Association (FRSA) as its parent body. It was founded in 1981. Since 1982 the Group has organised an annual conference attended by between 40-100 participants. In 1996 the topic was electronic journals. The aims of the FSG are:

- to keep the members of the Association informed by writing articles in the FRSA's journal *Signum* and by organising local conferences and training days;
- to encourage research work on the usage and purchase of serials.

The FSG is small but effective, with only seven members, one of whom is on the administrative board of the FRSA. The seven members come from different sectors and from different types of library. The number of meetings held by the FSG has diminished since the early 1990s as a result of the growing use of electronic mail, which has become an important communications tool for members in a country where there are long geographic distances involved. It is an effective way of saving time and money. The FSG will continue to have a role to play in Finland as long as there is a need for

information on serials in general. The Chair of the Finnish Serials Group is Mrs Irja Laamanen, The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Topeliuksenkatu 41aA, 00250 Helsinki. Both the FRSA and the FSG now have a WWW page. The url is: <http://www.jyu.fi/~library/STKS>

Spain

The Spanish Serials Group (Grupo Español de Revistas (GER)) modelled itself on the UKSG. It was formed in 1994 and sees itself as a forum for all sectors involved with periodical publications, from producers to users. It attempts to tackle problems with serials such as ordering, dealing with publishers, electronic publishing, copying and copyright, electronic transmission of data. The Chair is Dr Miguel Duarte, Biblioteca Central, Universidad de Cádiz. The committee is made up of eight other members. The group produces a journal/information bulletin and welcomes contributions on all topics connected with serials. Seminars are a regular feature of the group's activities and have covered topics such as payment methods, as well as bringing together publishers, agents, librarians and users of serials. Their 1996 conference was held in Santander and included papers and workshops on union catalogues, automated systems, electronic journals and collection management.

Denmark

The Danish Serials Group (DF's Interessekreder for Tidsskrifter) was founded in May 1993 at a two-day meeting on "Serials in the electronic library" arranged by the Danish Research Library Association (Danmarks Forskningsbiblioteksforening), under whose auspices it works. The

DRLA itself was founded in 1978 as a joint association of Danish research and special libraries and their staff. Within it there are four interest groups of which the Serials Group is one. The others cover: electronic networks, interlibrary lending and user education. These interest groups act independently and arrange their own meetings and conferences. The Danish Serials Group depends on the DRLA for its funding. Once a year the Executive Committee of the Danish Serials Group prepares an annual report to the DRLA and all its activities are reported in the DRLA's journal *DF-ny*. There are nearly 100 members of the Danish Serials Group from more than 30 public and private institutions and companies. There are six members of the Executive Committee, of which three are elected every year.

The group's first bi-annual conference was held in May 1995 and proved a great success, being attended by 70 people. Two one-day courses on electronic journals were held in 1996, attracting 116 participants, with more than 20 colleagues from Norway and Sweden. Recommendations have been made by the group relating to the cataloguing of newspapers in the context of electronic media and information provision.

Plans for the future include further courses on electronic journals, the trend towards "loan instead of own" and the problems involved in drawing up and estimating a budget in the light of price increases. The Chair is Mr Claus V Pedersen, Statsbiblioteket, Universitetsparken, DK-8000 Aarhus C.

Sweden

The Swedish Serials Group was founded in April 1994, as part of a larger organisation called the Swedish Society for Technical Documentation (SSTD). The SSTD is a professional nonprofit organisation of members with a common interest in information and documentation. Although its members work mainly in university libraries, there are also representatives of private industry, government, vendors, publishers and serials agents. The Swedish Serials Group is one of five interest groups working within the SSTD.

The Swedish Serials Group is financially independent of its parent body and in 1996 the membership fee was SEK 300 (£27). Because of

travel distances, the Swedish Serials Group is divided into five local groups - the distance between Lund University in southern Sweden and Lulea University in the north is the same as that between Lund and Rome, namely 1600 kilometres. The five local groups are situated in Stockholm, Uppsala, and in the Northern, Western and Southern regions of Sweden. There are 155 members altogether. Each local group has a coordinator responsible for its activities. Together these five coordinators form a working committee, with one acting as chairperson. The committee aims to meet once a year. In the meantime great reliance is placed on electronic mail.

The group organises meetings intended to act as a sharing of experience and as discussion forums. Topics have included: pricing, tendering, cancellations, document delivery, acquisition versus ILL, new techniques, library automation, tables of contents, lending CD-ROMs, outsourcing and copyright.

For more information contact Annika Sverrung, email: annikas@lib.chalmers.se

The WWW address of the Swedish Serials Group is: <http://www.tls.se/intresse.htm>

The Netherlands

The NVB Serials Group was founded in 1991 as a branch of the Nederlandse Vereniging van Bibliothecarissen, Documentalisten en Literatuuronderzoekers. It strives for close contact between those interested in scientific journals and related media and includes publishers, libraries, subscription agents and end users. The group organises courses, conferences and workshops. Topics under consideration include: the role of subscription agents, new technologies, collection development, checking in of serials, keeping in touch with other serials groups. Membership is open to individuals and organisations interested in serials and the fee is set at each AGM.

The Secretary is Mr Mathieu Sikkema, The Library, Delft University of Technology, PO Box 98, 2600 MG Delft.

Hungary

The Hungarian Periodicals Group (Magyar Periodika Kur) was established in 1994. Its

members come from all sectors of the serials industry. In 1996 there were 82 registered members, and more than 100 people who are interested in the activities of the group. The group aims to encourage discussion and cooperation between all parties in the serials chain; to develop links between them both nationally and internationally; to encourage professional awareness and provide training and education; to be a forum for the exchange of information; and to be a representative body of the profession in major decision-making processes.

Its first conference was held in 1994 at the Budapest Congress Centre, linked to the International Book Festival. Its theme was: Periodicals - recent trends and developments.

In 1995 two conferences and three special meetings were held, all of which were successful. At the beginning of 1996 the board of the group began to negotiate with governmental bodies concerning the law relating to tendering, an activity which affects libraries a great deal. The tendering problem was the theme of the 1996 conference and as a result many misunderstandings were cleared up. Plans for 1997 include a conference and 2 to 3 seminars.

More information is available from the chairperson: Mrs Ilona Fonyo, 1111 Budapest, Budafoki u. 4-6. Tel: 36 1 4631210; fax: 36 1 4633478.

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