

24TH ANNUAL UKSG CONFERENCE

Briefing Sessions

Nine briefing sessions were held at this year's conference, each repeated three times, generating much interesting debate and discussion. Reports reflecting the content and discussion at some of these sessions are included below.

Electronic-only Journals: a publisher's perspective

Andrew Wray, Institute of Physics Publishing

Electronic-only and traditional journals have many similarities. Most are refereed and presented static archival research articles. Publishers build their editorial identity, promote it to subscribers and readers, and may finance the journal via subscriptions. However, being e-only gives more freedom to vary these parameters.

In other areas there are unavoidable differences from paper journals. Customers have high expectations for faster publication, comprehensive linking, multimedia and easy access all at lower cost. These expectations are met with varying degrees of success. E-only does allow automation of some processes and hence faster publication. Online journals can incorporate supplementary data and linking. Being online brings closer contact with readers and authors and it can be easier to build a journal community.

Access control must balance security and ease of use. The issues include: IP addresses vs. usernames; authentication for remote access arrangements, if a subscription lapses, and gracing periods. The publisher must also organise a convincing archive for e-only information.

Cost too may differ. There are no print, distribution or claims costs but these are replaced by development and upkeep of software and hardware, customer service, access control and archiving. A new e-only journal may save compared to a new print title, but the savings are not large. Four examples show how some journals are tackling these issues and experimenting online:

1. **Journal of Turbulence**, <http://jot.iop.org>, publishes in a field where colour, animation, and supplementary data are essential to

communicate the research. A new e-only journal can be more effective in this respect and can offer a turbulence 'portal' to the journal community. JoT is archived on CD-ROM and the publisher guarantees to maintain the online archive.

2. **The Journal of High Energy Physics**, <http://jhpep.sissa.it>, uses bespoke software to automate and accelerate peer review. It is free to readers and authors and has grown very rapidly. Efforts to sell print or CD-ROM versions have been unsuccessful but the sponsoring institutions support running costs, long-term development and archiving. High-energy physics is well served by pre-prints, but authors still want a refereed journal (albeit a free one).
3. **Living Reviews in Relativity**, <http://www.livingreviews.org>, is funded by the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft and publishes a new type of review article in gravitational physics. Authors commit to update their reviews every 12-24 months. It also offers innovative online presentation with frames and sections, short sentences to aid online reading, numerous internal links, pop-up boxes referring back to key points and links to external reference material (to save reproducing detailed arguments or derivations).
4. **New Journal of Physics**, <http://www.njp.org>, uses the online environment to foster a new business model and is a joint venture of the Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft and Institute of Physics. It is free to readers and article charges cover the cost of peer review and publication. NJP offers a way to break out of the "serials crisis" by linking payments more closely with the refereeing service. Many authors have the support of their faculty or library to cover these charges.

Electronic-only is an extra uncertainty for publishers and the challenge is to be taken

seriously by authors, readers and purchasers. They must be certain that a journal is read, cited, approved by funding bodies and archived. The possibilities of e-only publishing make it very attractive to newcomers but many new electronic journals are short-lived. Publishers and learned societies must demonstrate commitment to their products to ensure success.

Electronic Copyright Issues

JudyWatkins, British Library

Introduction: Libraries aim to provide the best service possible to their customers. Through the implementation of new technology traditional library services can be speeded up and improved. However, despite the huge potential for libraries, copyright holders and consumers, electronic information has not taken off in the way it might have been envisaged. One of the big reasons for this is the constraint of copyright law.

The problem: Current UK Law is technology neutral, so there are no clear guidelines as to what can and cannot be done on the Internet. As a result we have to attempt to re-interpret existing laws to apply to the digital environment, whilst anticipating the possible effects of the EU Directive on copyright.

Copyright laws are restrictive. They state that certain acts can only be performed by the copyright holder or with their permission. These acts include:

- copying
- adapting or translating a work
- issuing to the public
- lending and rental

However what these mean in relation to electronic material is not always clear-cut.

Exceptions: There are exceptions and limitations to the rights of the copyright owner. In theory, these apply in the electronic environment. In order to work, a lot of the existing terminology will need to be rethought and defined, in order to make these exceptions work. For example most exceptions allow a copy to be made, but what is a copy in the electronic environment? If an electronic work is networked and can be accessed by more than one person at a time, is there then more than one copy? It is possible to copy a work

to send to a customer, yet still keep it, thereby making two copies. Moreover, some technical processes make transient copies as part of the programme, so making one copy could in effect be making several.

Draft directive: The EU is in the process of issuing a new directive that will probably become law in the UK in 2003. This aims to harmonise many aspects of copyright law across the EU. The Directive will deal with three rights, which will be exclusive to the copyright holder. These are:

- reproduction right;
- distribution right;
- communication to the public.

There will be some exceptions to these rights. Most of these exceptions are optional and could include 'fair compensation'. Therefore, even when the Directive finally appears, we will only know what will not be included in national legislation rather than what will be. At the moment there appears to be scope to keep current exceptions. However, library privilege copying will be limited to non-commercial research and private study.

The fifth part of the Directive gives protection to technological protection mechanisms. Circumvention of copyright management systems will be prohibited as will making devices for circumvention.

The Draft Directive has raised a number of concerns. For example there is nothing to stop contracts or licences overriding exceptions given in law. As an increasing amount of information is issued with a licence, there are fears that any exception will become meaningless.

Developments in Serials Cataloguing

*Matthew Searle, Radcliffe Science Library,
University of Oxford*

A revision to Chapter 12 (Serials) of AACR2 is currently in progress.

This is concerned mainly with issues such as:

Seriality (What is a serial?)

- An extra category is needed to deal with integrating resources

Title changes:

- distinction between major and minor title

changes with only major changes requiring a new bibliographic record;

- no need to transcribe other title information routinely;
- can record a title by which the resource is commonly known, e.g. PNAS for Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA;
- retrospective title changes.

Rules for electronic serials will be integrated into the main serials rules.

Chapter 9 (E-resources) of AACR2 is also being changed:

- interactive multimedia resources are now treated as a general resource with no special rules applying;
- separate formats do not now require separate records they are treated as a note ie MAC or PC files;
- a separate record for print and electronic resources seems to be the common approach at the moment but is it the correct approach?;
- is the 856 field a local holdings field (MARC21) and if so what do we do about downloaded catalogue records?

Linking is an issue of extreme importance at the moment. Many products are being developed in this area but do they exactly meet what we need?

Union Lists:

- particular problems with the local holdings information as there are multiple formats and rules in place. How do we bring these together into one whole.
- UK National Union Catalogue (UKNUC)

References to session available at:

www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/users/ms/developm.htm

Impact factors: the arguments for and against

Clair MacKenzie, Assistant Marketing Manager, ISI

Who is ISI?

ISI is a Thomson Scientific & Healthcare Company, which provides the scholarly research community with products and services that enables this community to gain access to historical research and keep abreast of the most recent developments in their respective disciplines. One of ISI's major products is *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR), which provides access to

data that help to evaluate and compare scholarly journals. The JCR can show you the:

- highest impact journals
- most frequently used journals
- hottest journals
- largest journals

[The above is an editor's note extracted from the ISI web site: <http://wos.mimas.ac.uk/jcrweb/overview.html>]

What are Impact Factors?:

- a good evaluation tool if used properly;
- in 2 parts:
 - numerator – number of citations in the current year to any items published in a journal in the previous two years;
 - denominator – the number of substantive articles (source items) published in the same two years

Who developed them, when and why?

Developed by ISI in 1955.

How can they be used, and by whom?

Used by:

- a) publishers
 - market research
- b) librarians
 - collection development
- c) researchers & authors
 - journal submission decisions
- d) research policy and evaluation departments
 - research assessment exercises

What do I need to know to use them most effectively?

- a) Source item classification
 - What is a source item – depends on the type of journal.
- b) Changes in journal format and journal title changes
 - Three years before format and title changes are fully worked through.
- c) Cited only journals and self citation
 - What are they and what impact do they have?
- d) Discipline coverage and scope
 - Number of researchers and journals within a discipline can have a major bearing on the impact factor.
 - What about multi-disciplinary journals?
- e) Time period in the calculation

- Impact factors for journals do change in different time periods in line with changes in the journal.

Kenneth Dick, John Innes Centre

Winning deals: modeling and economic evaluation of National Electronic Site Licence Initiative (NESLI) offers.

J. Eric Davies

J.Eric Davies presented an informative workshop on the NESLI experience, sharing his insight as Director of the Library and Information Statistics Unit, and highlighting the work undertaken by the unit in offering suggestions and recommendations to the NESLI Steering Group. Drawing a fun analogy with 'The Naked Chef,' the workshop progressed as a shopping trip for 'The Naked Serials Librarian,' highlighting the problem buys along the way.

An interesting serials historiography was given which brought us back in time to the archaic trends of 1665 to the present day E-journals phenomenon, with users wanting information much more quickly than ever before. This climate has brought inevitable problems in handling serials, as Davies suggested, for example, with selection and de-selection, acquisition and de-acquisition, deployment and re-deployment...but above all with money.

Amongst some of the options offered to the Serials Librarian is the E-option, which Davies explained, offers choice, distributed access, for example, networking around campus, multimedia, technical infrastructure, archiving and tentative business models, although Davies warned of the need for balance between the business model and the technological model.

NESLI deals, as Davies pointed out, encompass bundles of E-serials, 'special' prices, special access and special conditions, with publishers offering deals which are very different to each other. Therefore, there isn't one, single, standard deal. The problem for the consumer is that all products included in the basket must be accepted. There is no element of pick and mix. This provoked lively discussion during the workshop session with comments on the browsing element of the customer and budgetary concerns.

Davies explained LISU's role, which was to monitor the situation, collecting data on institutions' holdings and prices, and matching them against the 'deals' data, calculating the differences and assessing the value. Suggestions and recommendations were then made to the institutions. In conclusion, LISU prompted that larger libraries stand to gain rather than smaller ones and that deals may favour institutions with a narrow spread of subject interest.

The session was interesting because it highlighted the complexities of evaluating NESLI deals because of institutional subject needs, existing serials holdings, user preferences and available technology. Davies pressed for the need to scrutinize carefully every detail of the options, in a local context, before managers make decisions, stressing once again the main focus: 'smash the system!' The client does not care where the information comes from these days, as long as it is readily accessible and available now. Surely this is a warning for NESLI with the increasing, growing alternatives: item fulfillment/delivery, ILL, E-document Delivery and LAMDA. As Davies concluded, perhaps the idea is not necessarily to go shopping but to grow ones own. A very entertaining session!

*Bernadette Mellody, Deputy Library Services Manager
(Finance and Acquisitions), Manchester Metropolitan
University Library*

EEVL (Edinburgh Engineering Virtual Library): context and content (<http://www.eevl.ac.uk>)

Linda Kerr

Started in 1995 as part of the E-Lib project and is now funded by JISC. EEVL is a valuable free resource for all engineering disciplines, with additional information covering Mathematics and Computing. Information includes technical data, company and product information. Electronic journal reports and papers, research groups, teaching and much more all available through the portal.

News of EEVL and other Internet resources can be found in the *Internet Resource Newsletter* (<http://www.hw.ac.uk/libwww/irn/>), a free Web newsletter.

Michael Davies, RoweCom