

# Editorial



*There are no lengths your Editors will not go to, to get articles for Serials – including the Swedish lakes.*

Picture by  
Zuzana Helinsky

This issue of *Serials* features many of the highlights of the hugely successful UKSG 25th Anniversary conference held at Warwick University in April. Those readers who attended will no doubt have particularly enjoyed the wonderful conference banquet in the splendid surrounds of Stoneleigh Abbey culminating in a firework display over the river. But it is also to be hoped that they took away with them an impression of a conference which provided a wealth of informed and stimulating presentations from plenary, workshop and briefing sessions. Much of the content of these sessions is recorded in this issue and includes a history of UKSG from its founder John Merriman, PELICAN pricing models, usage of electronic and print journals, and e-resource developments in Turkey.

A particular hot topic was the scope and boundaries of our field of interest, 'serials'. The boundaries between e-serials and e-books are blurring rapidly, particularly in the way that libraries purchase and acquire such materials, and the UKSG Committee has fully discussed these developments and agreed that in future, coverage (including *Serials* as well as conferences and seminars) will include any materials purchased as subscriptions. A similar debate has recently taken place in the USA, focusing on revisions to Chapter 12 of AACR2: Continuing Resources.

Interest in e-content, particularly for research purposes, has never been higher. In May this year,

the Research Support Libraries Programme (RSLP) celebrated its achievements with an Open Day which provided a showcase for numerous RSLP funded projects whose common aim was to improve collaboration and resource sharing between diverse organisations for the benefit of the UK research community. Michael Anderson, Sir Brian Follett and Lynne Brindley (see *Profile*) were speakers at the Open Day, and Sir Brian spoke in particular about the work of the Research Support Libraries Group (RSLG) and their conclusions. The RSLG report will be published in September this year, and its aim will be to stimulate library co-operation and collaboration across both e-resources and legacy collections. High on the list of priorities will be integrated access structures – catalogues and search engines. A UK National Union Catalogue will be funded. SUNCAT (the national serials union catalogue) which we reported on in the March 2002 editorial, is already getting started, with one of its major aims being to encourage and facilitate deep resource sharing across sectors including the Research Councils, the British Library and the Funding Councils.

As frequently commented upon in our editorials, we all live in exciting and rapidly changing times. Being a member of UKSG and reading both *Serials* and *Serials-eNews* (our fortnightly online newsletter) enable you to keep right up to date with all the changes in our industry. Enjoy this issue.