

Editorial



Your Editors at the Fiesole retreat, waiting for the apple to drop

It is July already and another highly successful UKSG conference has taken place. This year the Group was in Manchester, at UMIST, with a turnout of well over 500 delegates. In this issue we bring you the students' eye view of the conference with plenty of pictures where you can identify friends and colleagues working and playing hard together. Also included are a selection of conference papers and presentations, among them: Olivieri and Morris discussing STM publishing; Lawrence covering deep resource sharing between libraries; Twyman telling us about the Public Library of Science's new open access journal *PLoS Biology*; Simpson on managing change in the research library environment; and, Bide updating us on the complexities of digital rights management. We also publish write-ups of two of the conference's topical briefing sessions on NESLi2 and COUNTER. We will have more papers in the November issue. Also in this issue we have articles on initiatives to extend access to scholarly information in developing countries (AGORA/HINARI and PERI), continuing the developing countries theme started in previous issues of *Serials* and intended to continue.

Following on from the recent House of Commons Science and Technology Committee Inquiry into Scientific Publications in the UK – the report of which we await with interest – comes an announcement from the European Commission on the topic of scientific publishing. The Commission has just launched a study on the economic and technical evolution of scientific publication markets in the Europe, which will deal with issues

such as: "... the future of printed scientific reviews, the risks associated with increases in the price of publications in terms of access to information for researchers, open access to research findings for all and the need to reconcile authors' rights and the economic interest of publishers". Sounds familiar? Clearly many members of UKSG will be consulted during this study and it is our intention in *Serials* (and, of course, at the annual conference and at our seminars) to keep all our members up to date with the latest information on these important topics. Open access, for example, was the subject of an excellent session at this year's conference which included presentations from exponents of open access (see Twyman's paper), opponents and dispassionate observers. Other papers from this session will appear in the November issue. The Commission also identifies rights management as another hot topic and this issue contains a paper by Bide and an update on the Zwolle principles by Friend. The results of the study will be available in 2005.

Serials itself is managing to keep up with the continuing advancements in scholarly publishing. UKSG has now joined CrossRef and is in the process of assigning DOIs to our articles. UKSG has also made the decision to digitize all the back issues of *Serials* (Volumes 1 to 12) and this is in process. We have also made all the issues from Volume 13, other than the current three issues, available free of charge to all on the MetaPress site. Please make sure you have registered for access to MetaPress and the increasing volume of information on the journals and continuing resources industry past and present.