Editorial

What do you have to do to get intelligent readership in Oxford?

Your Editors were walking on Port Meadow in Oxford talking about how to publicize the soon to be released retro-digitization of *Serials*. (Oxford is obviously conducive to these thoughts.) We are excited that the back-files from Volume 8 will soon be available on open access via MetaPress. We will be assessing the usage of these to see if we should go ahead with further back-files from Volume 1 Number 1. An interesting question is whether the librarians out there will keep their print copies of *Serials* on the shelves. Alice Keller has posed this question and come up with some interesting findings about quality in this issue. Helle Lauridsen, in her paper, concludes that the only cost-effective way of handling serials in the 21st century is to ignore and discard the print and promulgate the electronic. Her case-study from a Danish legal deposit library will stimulate the debate even further. Indeed, we have already commissioned articles for the next issue on this topic, which seems to be rising to the top of the serials agenda worldwide.

Looking at the *Serials* usage statistics since we went primarily electronic, we were pleased to note that our recent innovation – mini-profiles of our members 'at the coal-face' – featured in the top ten most read items. This issue moves to the library reference desk with contrasting views from Cranfield and Lund Universities. As always you cannot help but admire the dedication of our professionals to the ultimate pursuit of information.

This enthusiasm also comes out in Sally Rumsey's article about e-resources at the London School of Economics where they are coming up with some very innovative ideas and projects including e-book procurement and management. UKSG will be featuring e-books in a forthcoming seminar 'E-book: the new serial?' and the papers from this seminar will be published in the next few issues of *Serials*.

Talking of innovation, we have a brief report from a new JISC-funded project – EThOS (Electronic Theses Online Service) investigating the feasibility of setting up a UK theses portal, and all the inherent issues surrounding it. In the next issue, the EThOS team will be providing *Serials* with a more detailed report on progress of this fascinating project. Of course, one of the key issues associated with e-theses is copyright, and papers from the recent UKSG copyright seminar are being published in *Serials*. In this issue we have an overview by Henriette Fenger Grønfeldt and Anette Schneider and an article by the leading UK expert Professor Charles Oppenheim.

Anyone who wants to know more about JISC's strategic thinking can read Fytton Rowland's report on an international colloquium hosted by JISC in which prestigious speakers explored many of the themes important to *Serials* readers. A new reader of *Serials* is Michael Jubb, Director of RIN, who is our featured personality this issue. During our

interview with Michael we realized that there was so much to know about the new Research Information Network that we asked him to write an article about its aims and mission. It will be fascinating to see how his organization develops collaborations with a range of other industry players. (Of course, the UKSG upcoming conference in Warwick is the ideal place for industry-wide collaborations!) For those of you who enjoyed the dinner at Stoneleigh Abbey in 2002, you will be pleased to hear we are returning there for the conference dinner in 2006.