

Editorial



HAZEL WOODWARD



HELEN HENDERSON

*Your Eds were unable to meet up for the legendary joint photo this issue – but at least you know which is which now!
(Helen volunteers at the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park - just returning from feeding the manatees)*

A major theme of this issue of *Serials* is digitization. Digitization seems to be at the top of many agendas at the moment. The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) has recently announced a huge multi-million pound programme of digitization projects across a wide range of subject disciplines. Hardly a week goes by without yet another announcement that Google or Yahoo are working with another large research library to digitize content. This issue of *Serials* has articles on a variety of diverse projects ranging from activity at The National Archives (TNA), projects in Australasia, and enhancing access to Victorian journals. As librarians we should be delighted that access to information is being significantly improved; as users we should also be glad (all of us are information users in many contexts); but what do the publishers think? How is all this activity going to affect their future plans? You can get a glimpse into what publishers feel about the future by reading Karen Hunter's article on disruptive technologies. And this month's profile of Michael Mabe from STM offers still further insights into the world of publishing.

In addition to our digitization theme we are delighted to include articles on a wide range of other topics relating to e-resources. Take a look at Steve Shadle's article explaining what a serials publisher needs to know to be a serials cataloguer and the Key Issue detailing all you need to know

about federated search technology which is radically changing the way in which libraries present resources and services to their users. On the topic of presenting resources to users we have two very differing perspectives on VLEs and e-learning. The first from Mark Stiles investigates whether the much-hyped VLE has a future in academia, the second from a group of colleagues from Emerald looks at e-learning from the publisher's point of view.

The management of e-journals continues to exercise both individual librarians and library consortia. Should libraries stock check e-journals? Read about the experience of librarians at King's College London. You may recall an article published in *Serials* last year from one of our editorial board members, Rick Anderson, about whether we should even check in e-journals. No doubt this will be an ongoing debate. On the consortia front, Bülent Karasözen examines patterns of e-journals within one of Turkey's major library consortia. And if you've ever wondered how consortia are managed, we have included two mini-profiles from consortia managers in Australia and Italy. Clearly the scope of *Serials* is continuing to expand into all areas of e-resources, as is our international coverage due to the fantastic work of our highly international editorial board. Also, let us not forget our authors. Although many articles published in *Serials* are commissioned, we get a steady stream of

unsolicited articles, many of which are published after undergoing our editorial procedures. Please keep them coming!

Finally, we look forward to welcoming many of our readers to the 2007 Annual Conference in Warwick in April. Although this is the second year in a row that we have been to Warwick there will

be some exciting news announced at the conference about future venues for the conference – we think you will approve. In this year's conference pack we have, once again, produced a conference issue of *Serials* containing the top five most downloaded articles from the 2006 volume. Who is going to make it this year? Find out at the conference.