

Editorial

*Your Eds and their Muses,
awaiting inspiration*



Many people your Editors meet still ask if UKSG is solely UK based. As most of you know, this is definitely not the case, and the *Serials* Editorial Board is becoming increasingly international. As well as major representation from Europe and the USA, Diane Costello from Australia and Ruoxi Li from Chongqing Normal University in China have recently joined to expand our scope even further. The forthcoming conference programme also reflects the international nature of UKSG with a session including Indian and Chinese speakers. [The 2008 Annual Conference and Exhibition will take place from 7–9 April 2008 at the Riviera International Conference Centre in Torquay, Devon. The programme is due to be sent out before the end of this year.]

Continuing the international theme, this month's profile is of Tirong arap Tanui, who is the University Librarian at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. Hazel recently visited Moi University with a group of colleagues – celebrating the tenth anniversary of a major consultancy project in which they advised

on the building and stocking of the new University Library. The celebrations involved a three-day programme of workshops and seminars but still gave Hazel and her group of consultants an opportunity to do some further sightseeing and exploration of the country. The highlight of the visit was a stay at Lake Baringo where the hippos come out of the water in the evenings and graze on the grass outside your hotel room (a notice in the room tells you to call a guard to escort you to the club house if they're about!). It is also the major bird-watching centre of Kenya and fish eagles, eagle owls and many other amazing birds can be seen in the grounds and around the lake.

We are delighted to be able to publish four of the papers from the UKSG seminar 'Measure for Measure'. Papers were of a consistently high quality ranging across usage of arts and humanities publications, usage metrics and the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), the UKSG Usage Factor Project, and citation measurement. Usage is certainly a hot topic at the moment. A number of publishers

are developing new pricing models incorporating COUNTER usage data; COUNTER audits have recently begun and there is much debate about the new metrics for post RAE 2008. The UKSG Usage Factor Project has generated huge interest internationally – and it will hopefully be moving into Phase 2 once funding has been secured. The latest project developments will be delivered to a predominantly US audience at the upcoming Charleston Conference in November. Indeed UKSG research is high on the industry radar. At the recent ICOLC (International Coalition for Library Consortia) Conference in Stockholm, which Hazel attended, presentations from committee members Nancy Buckley on the UKSG Project Transfer and Jenny Walker on the Link Resolvers and Serials Supply Chain generated much interest and discussion.

Other papers reflect the implementation of automated systems for serials, with papers on educational forums from Jill Emery and friends; e-journal archiving from Philip Pothen, Emma Cass and Samantha Tillett; and deselecting backruns at ICL from Ruth Cooper and David Norris. The standards needed to make these systems work are discussed by Liam Earney and Brian Green on ONIX for Licensing and Helen Henderson on institutional identifiers.

Access to research is another theme in this issue. Fred Friend reports on a project to assess UK access to UK research information. We also return

to the topic of open access with a survey of authors' attitudes to institutional repositories (IRs) from Sarah Watson and two papers from the 2007 UKSG Conference. The conference papers were presented from two very different perspectives – Stephen Pinfield from the University of Nottingham and a strong advocate of open access and IRs, and Sally Morris from ALPSP. Given the huge injection of funding this year from JISC's IR programme there will be a significant growth in the number of UK IRs in the near future as well as a number of studies examining the cultural and economic issues surrounding them. We hope to bring you further papers on these topics as the projects progress.

Social networking is a new, big, confusing topic. Charlie Rapple makes all clear in the Key Issue, and if you want to find out how it relates to you and the industry you must attend the 'Caught up in Web 2.0?' seminar on 22 November in London. UKSG's blog is heavily used during the conference, but we are trying to make sure that *Serials*, the blog, *Serials-eNews* and, of course, *lis-e-journals*, are all relevant to UKSG members all year. Do let us have your comments on any of these, and ideas for any other social networking we should be doing (although your Editors still think the UKSG conference is the best social networking there is!).

Hazel & Helen