

# Editorial



This November issue comes just ahead of a momentous time for UK universities. In December the results of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) – the method by which the research output of UK university departments is graded and assessed – will be released and institutions will begin the process of evaluating its impact on their budgets. In this issue we are pleased to publish an article by Ann-Marie James on how librarians supported the RAE this time round. What is uncertain at present is what will follow the RAE. We know it will be called the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and that it is likely to be heavily metrics based, but the exact details still remain to be decided. What you can be sure about is that *Serials* will be following the debate and arguments surrounding citation analysis across the disciplines, the use of Web of Science versus Scopus, and the validity of other metrics.

There is a concern in some quarters that the direction the REF seems to be taking will mean that academics and researchers will focus more and more of their scholarly output in a small number of high impact journals to increase their citation counts. A further move in this direction would clearly impact upon libraries and publishers alike. What will happen to the long tail of low impact journals or those not covered by the significant A&I indexes? Will publication still be viable? Pertinent to this topic is the research commissioned by the Research Information Network (RIN). Branwen Hide explains how and why the RIN set out to investigate the costs incurred by the whole scholarly communication process in the article 'How much does it cost and who pays?' Cost is

often at the forefront of librarians' concern about journals, and Sussex University Library is no exception. Jane Harvell talks us through innovative work undertaken at Sussex to define and evaluate a core journals collection to support teaching and research. Quality of research is another important concern throughout the information chain. The EQUATOR network – described by Iveta Simera – aims to enhance the quality and transparency of health research by creation of a comprehensive web-based resource of reporting tools.

Case-studies and reviews have always been extremely popular in *Serials* and in this issue we have three types. Gitte Larsen tells us about the practical side of further education and training for librarians at the new Danish Library School, David Burgoyne reviews publishers' online platforms and Ian Johnson, Hong Wang and Fei Nie bring us up to date on electronic journal publication and use in China. In a new style of reviews we have three papers on next-generation library catalogues. Linda Humphreys and Ian Mayfield review the Swedish catalogue ELIN being piloted in several UK libraries; Steve Shadle from the University of Washington explains WorldCat Local and their part as primary development partners with OCLC; and Morag Watson talks about the selection and implementation of Aquabrowser at the University of Edinburgh. If you are interested in writing a case-study, or reviewing products, do let us know as *Serials* is the ideal place to share your experiences. Other content in this issue includes a description by Jean Sykes of the massive £22-million JISC programme of large-scale digitization in UK libraries and an interesting account by Helen Wetherill of

how Cranfield University has set up an Alumni Online Library – with all the ensuing licensing issues which it raises.

You've seen Helen and Hazel with a rower before at Henley Regatta, but last time it was (Sir) Steven Redgrave. This time we are closer to home with the former coach of the German international rowing team Volker Nolte (centre right) and one of those team members Roland Ehrenfels (centre left). Volker now coaches in Canada and his Western

Ontario team were winners of the prestigious Temple Cup this year. Roland came from Springer in May to take over as Sales and Marketing Director of OUP Journals and will become well known to you all over the next few months. With water in mind, it won't be long before the next UKSG Conference in Torquay and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

*Hazel & Helen*