# Introducing our Editorial Board

**HELLE LAURIDSEN**

After graduation from the Royal Danish Library and practical training at Trinity College Dublin, I worked for many years at the Library of Chemistry at Aarhus University. There, computers were an integrated part of daily life, and the excellent programmers there designed and executed one of the first Danish in-house networked online library catalogues.

But in 1991 it was time for a change: my family and I – husband and two kids aged three and five – went to Western Province, Zambia, as development workers on a two-year contract. This period more than any other has shaped my life, working as acting Director for a small local museum under the Royal Establishment of Barotseland, managing a staff of 40-odd people as well as developing and running an international crafts project. Travelling from village to village in the deep bush, sometimes crossing the border to Angola, has taught me not just patience and endurance but also some pretty good negotiating and speaking skills.

A meeting in 1996 with Diana Leitch of Manchester University started a huge change. Both of us being chemistry librarians, we commiserated over the fact that the core handbooks – Beilstein and Gmelin – were being lost for students, not only due to their difficult structure but mainly due to the German language. Diana approached the Beilstein Institute, and 'Crossfire' was born. Crossfire, run by Mimas, became the first Danish National licence in 1997 and the very first licence supported by Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF).

In late 2000, I became Head of Serials at the State and University Library in Aarhus, where the main task was to move the library and the 50 departmental libraries from print to electronic. The library at that time had less than 7,000 online titles and over 6,000 print titles. By the end of my tenure there in 2005, my title had changed to Head of Electronic Resources and the library had 2,284 print titles and almost 18,000 online full-text titles.

It was an exciting time, with lots of changes, but the biggest change of all came in early 2006 when I moved to work for CSA (merged with ProQuest in 2007) in the private publishing sector.

I have never regretted it for one moment, though. I have been given plenty of scope to discover the different areas of the new company, travelling as a speaker to international conferences as well as being part of innovation and development of future products. Just a few days ago, I was made Product Manager for 'CSA Illustrata', which is extremely exciting: not only am I in charge of developing a totally new way of indexing, but also have to work with all sorts of people inside as well as outside the company to make it succeed.

When not travelling, I live with my husband, four Rhodesian Ridgebacks, ten (well exercised!) cats and 20 sheep on an old farm in Denmark.