

Editorial



So, another successful annual UKSG conference has come and gone. This year, however, we took the plunge and moved from a familiar academic setting to a commercial environment at the Riviera International Conference Centre in Torquay. Your feedback told us that you approved of the move – which allowed greater numbers of people to attend – and that this conference in all respects lived up to, and indeed in many instances exceeded, expectations. We had a terrific line-up of speakers and a number of the presentations are included in this issue. Muir Gray from the NHS National Knowledge Service raises the important issues of peer review and editing standards in the medical literature and highlights the lack of reporting of negative results. Kevin Guthrie of Ithaka discusses the future of scholarly communication, making interesting comparisons with newspaper publishing, and the need for both to fully transition to the digital environment to survive. Moving continents, Ruoxi Li from Chongqing Normal University (and a member of the *Serials* Editorial Board) outlines the huge growth of scholarly journal publishing in China over the last ten years. David Nicholas from the CIBER research group based at University College London takes a fascinating look at the information-seeking behaviour of the virtual scholar whilst Ian Bannerman examines the use and abuse of usage measures. Last but not least, Dan Jones from The National Archives updates us on their mass digitization project which is making millions of items – ranging from genealogy documents, military history and academic collections – freely available on the Internet.

There is a splendid range of papers in addition to the conference papers and reports. Two papers focus on the successful French Couperin consortium, with a general paper from Catherine Forestier and Pierre Carbone and a more detailed look at the consortium usage statistics from Joachim Schöpfel and Cherifa Boukacem-Zeghmouri. Continuing the international theme, we have a paper from Japan on scholarly journal publishing from Soichi Tokizane. If you have been wondering why you lose access to your electronic journals, our Editor Helen Henderson has tried to explain the complexities of the delivery process and the standards being developed to streamline them. Our profile this month is of the long-time UKSG stalwart Richard Gedye, whose vision has started many of these standards initiatives. The UK is backing many interesting initiatives and Helen Hockx-Yu and Adam Farquhar write about the Planets work in digital preservation. The last paper from the Web 2.0 seminar by Jane Secker follows the adventures of LASSIE which investigates how social software might be used to enhance distance learners' use of libraries. Diana Leitch retires this year and we have a tribute to her career and work in the serials arena.

As you will see from this issue's photo, your Eds took some time out recently to sail the Greek Islands with a fabulous boat (Korialia 3) and her America's Cup-winning captain, Jonathan Chandler. Jonathan had family in every port so we were well looked after. Just like the UKSG conference – but on water!

Helen & Hazel