

Editorial



Can you believe it – conference time is almost here again. The UKSG Committee and your editors are all looking forward to it immensely and we hope that the venue in Torquay works well again for us this year. It would certainly be nice to get some sunshine on those palm trees. We are delighted to report that, despite the economic gloom and doom, bookings for the conference – of both delegates and exhibitors – have held up well.

However, the message from libraries is not quite so upbeat. Almost all UK libraries have been hit hard by currency fluctuations during this financial year and many have had to go with begging bowls in hand to their institutions to balance the budget (with varying amounts of success). Moreover, the outlook for the next financial year looks uncomfortable, with a number of libraries reporting that they may be looking at the cancellation of one or more of their ‘big deals’. The dilemma is summed up in the recent ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia) Statement on the Global Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Consortial Licenses. In essence this is a plea to publishers to enter into a dialogue with librarians on how we can weather the storm together and ensure the sustainability of our industry.

In this issue, we are pleased to publish a number of the papers presented at the UKSG seminar on ‘Mandating and the scholarly journal article: attracting interest on deposits?’. We are all aware that mandating the deposit of scholarly journal articles within open access repositories is gathering pace and this seminar brought together a range of speakers – with widely differing viewpoints – to

discuss both the philosophical and governance impact that such policies have. Morag Greig explains how they are attempting to achieve an ‘enlightened’ publication policy at the University of Glasgow, while Ann Okerson provides us with a view from the USA. Peter Shepherd describes the PEER project – a major European project which aims to monitor the effects of widespread open access archiving, and Richard Gedye talks us through COUNTER’s PIRUS project which is investigating how the usage of articles in repositories can be measured.

And, speaking of institutional repositories (IRs), Helen reports that the NISO I² Working Group on Institutional Identifiers now has a subgroup looking at their use in IRs, chaired by Grace Agnew of Rutgers University and Michael Giarlo of the Library of Congress. Amanda Hill from the Mimas Names Project is also on this subgroup. More information on the NISO website www.niso.org.

We continue our reviews of next-generation library platforms by the people implementing them and are looking for any more contributions, so if you are implementing something new and exciting do let us know.

Your editors couldn’t resist a photo of their visit last year to a new Greek winery near Nafplion. Several cases were purchased and some of it even made it back to England. Let’s hope the wine flows at the conference and we have as much sun as we had in Greece.

Helen & Hazel