

Editorial



*It will take more
than a little Icelandic rift
to part your Eds*

We are pleased to bring you in this issue two papers from the UKSG one-day seminar 'Let's not waste a crisis'. This was a well-attended event – actually chaired by one of your Eds – with some excellent speakers and enthusiastic delegate participation. John Cox (National University of Ireland, Galway) describes the very difficult situation that Irish libraries now find themselves in – with swingeing cuts to both resources and people budgets. Phil Sykes (Liverpool University) takes us through the thinking and rationale behind decisions made by librarians when faced with potential budget cuts. Not uplifting reading by any stretch of the imagination – but helpful advice in the current economic situation.

The reviews of products and services are proving popular and our section this issue includes two very different implementations of print on demand, from the Espresso Book Machine at the University of Utah to the African Books Collective and Lightning Source. ERM products are increasingly innovative, and EBSCO and Serials Solutions give some insight into their offerings. Our key issue reflects the huge leaps forward in Semantic Web technology and thinking since our last key issue on the subject only a couple of years ago.

As usual, our general articles reflect the scope and diversity of our journal's content. Arend Küster

describes a new beginning in Qatar and Adrian Mulligan provides an overview of a peer review research report. For the publishing community, Mark Bide explains the ARROW project, an EU-funded project, which aims to identify rights-holders, rights and the status of orphan works, and Karen Christensen and Bill Siever provide some fascinating information relating to sustainable publishing.

A new feature in this issue is 'People in the news', where we have guest interviews with people or about places in the news. In this issue Zuzana Helinsky interviews the Librarian of the National Technical Library in the Czech Republic about his new building. Our profile this issue is of Dan Tonkery, who has been in the news for the past 40 years with his activities in the library information industry.

Hazel and Helen reside on different continents these days and had to meet up in Iceland where the two continents meet. Appropriately, Hazel is on the Eurasian tectonic plate and Helen is on the North American tectonic plate. Only one of the party who gathered to watch actually fell down the fissure between the two (but, you will be pleased to hear, was swiftly pulled to safety).

Hazel & Helen