Writing for Insights and other journals

A bit about the history of Insights: the UKSG journal

From 1988 to 2011, *Insights* was published as [Serials: The Journal for the Serials Community](#), a benefit of membership of UKSG (a community association for scholarly publishers, libraries and other individuals and organizations in the knowledge community).

The journal, with three issues a year (March, July and November), was retitled in 2011, moved to an e-only format in 2012.
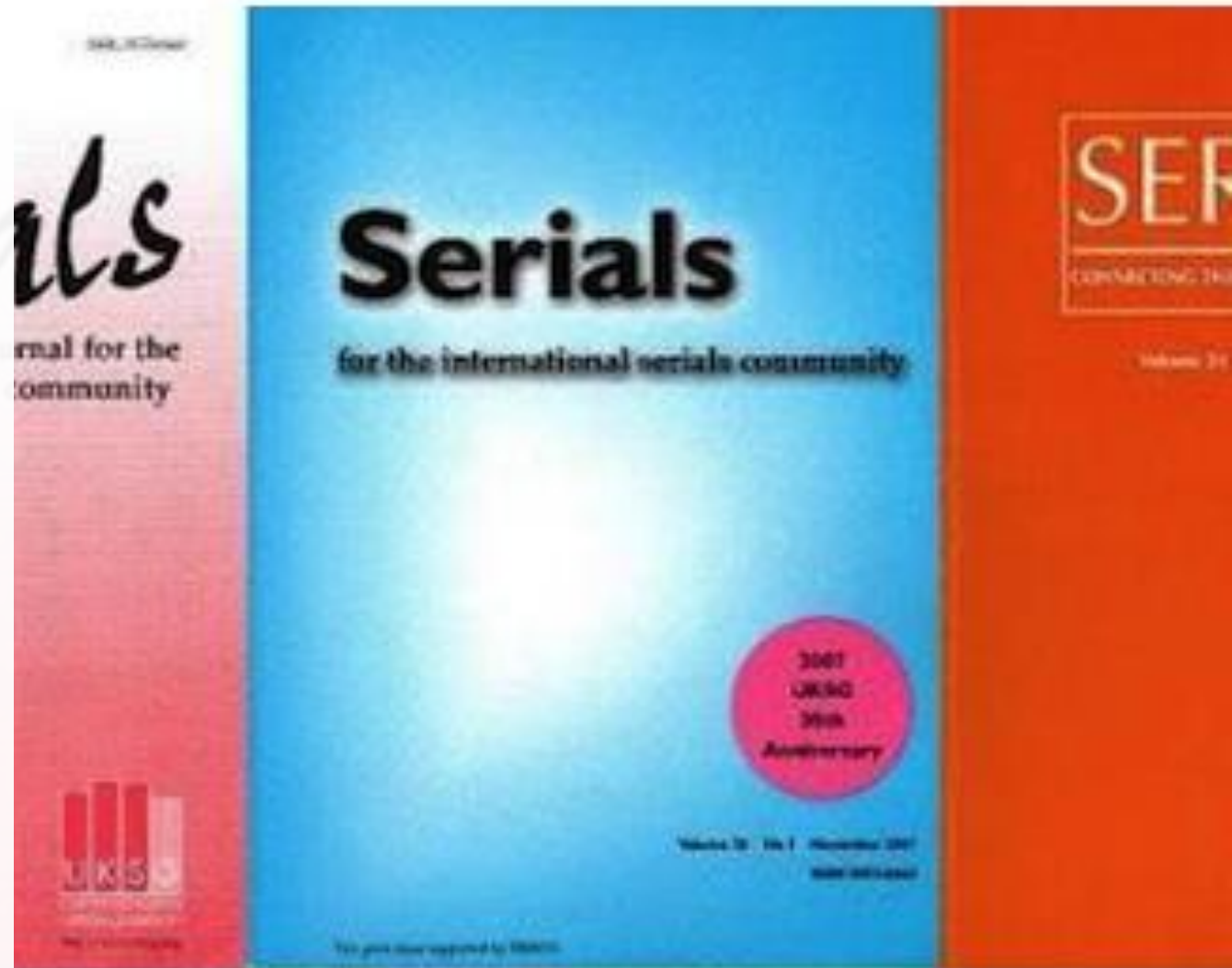
We looked a little different back in 1996

◦ John Merriman was the co-founder of UKSG and the first editor of Serials, which later became Insights.

◦ Then as now the journal aimed to support UKSG's mission to connect the information community and encourage the exchange of ideas on scholarly communication.

Editorial

Editorial

John Merriman

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To organise a successful conference is a daunting task but when it is international it is doubly daunting. I think that all concerned with the Third European Serials Conference and Exhibition should feel very pleased with the results of their labours.

The venue was perfect. Held in the elegant and peaceful surroundings of Trinity College, delegates wishing to enjoy the many attractions of

It is quite easy to say, "we would like to form a serials group", but to make it succeed is another matter. It is essential to have a hard core of dedicated people who have the time, imagination and motivation to make it work. Without this driving force it is unlikely to succeed. More and more the groups are becoming involved in information transfer which obviates the traditional paper journal. Much conference time

This article was published in 1998

- That was when we when used the term 'electronic journals'

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS - THE LIBRARIAN'S VIEWPOINT

Hazel Woodward

Librarians are adapting to the new methods of communication. Information must be quickly and easily available to support research teaching and learning. The current situation is reviewed followed by some thoughts about the way forward.

Hazel Woodward was Academic Services Manager, Pilkington Library, Loughborough University at the time of this presentation.
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There are a growing number of academics and publishers who believe quite firmly that once the transition from print to electronic journals has been made - particularly within the scientific, medical and technical (STM) sector of the journals market - there will be no role for libraries in the scholarly communication chain. E-journals can be delivered directly from the publisher (who may be a small research group, a learned society or a major international publishing conglomerate) to the user's desktop. Such a scenario is certainly possible, but in the short to medium term I think it is unlikely for a number of reasons. Even assuming that all academics and researchers had the technical expertise to deal with the range of hardware and software required to access a variety of relevant electronic products, individuals will not wish to purchase out of their own pockets, the range of titles required for their research and therefore some form of departmental/ faculty or central purchasing will be required. Moreover, an individual academic will have scant regard that the titles they are interested in having delivered to their desktop may be of interest to other colleagues on campus. Will they read and sign a complex licence agreement so that the title can be networked across the campus? I think not. Even if they did, who would be responsible for implementing the security requirements imposed by most publishers? Currently librarians perform a valuable service to their academic and research colleagues by facilitating quick and easy access to information. It matters little to the researcher that behind the scenes the librarians are dealing with selection, acquisition, licences, hardware requirements and software. What really matters is that relevant information is quickly and easily available to support research, teaching and learning. And librarians are currently playing a pivotal role in this process.

In an attempt to give a perspective to this presentation, I would like to start by examining the role of the librarian in the print environment. The main tasks of the librarian can be summarised as

This is what we looked like in 2001

- Helen Henderson and Hazel Woodward succeeded John Merriman as co-editors of Serials

Editorial

Hazel Woodward and Helen Henderson

"Digital objects formerly known as bits of journals" was the somewhat cumbersome but best description of articles that we could come up with at a meeting at ALA in San Francisco. This was one of the many discussions and events that brought home to me how far the paper and electronic versions of serials had diverged.

I started this editorial after several days at the Hay on Wye Literary Festival on the Welsh Borders and after many delicious hours browsing around the second hand bookshops. Looking at back volumes of journals I was led me to think about the recent discussions on the list-servs about the selling of back issues of periodicals by specialist back issue dealers, in many cases in competition with the publishers. Many of these back issues in the second hand bookshops are disposed of by libraries. The library has physically bought these and can dispose of them like the multitude of second hand books and serials I see here in Hay If you are missing issues, or want to back fill the collection, you can just look around the second hand dealers. I remember in the 1970s, when the UK Public Libraries started to sell off their old or less used books, the publishers were extremely upset, as they believed this eroded their market. What will happen to this business with the increasing use of e-journals

and e-books? You have paid the same (or more) for them, but no longer do you have the right to sell on your old volumes. I remember in the 1970s when the UK Public Libraries started to sell off their old or less used books and the publishers were extremely upset as they believed this eroded their market.

However, the subscription model as a way of permanently acquiring assets is not dead, despite some forecasters. One manifestation is the way that Microsoft is proposing to sell its Office software applications on a monthly subscription. The comment in USA Today by Kevin Maney was: "Why would you pay money each month for something you already own? It seems as silly as calling a cab, when a perfectly good car sits in your garage." This may again predicate a return to print, as forecast by some, as a result of the recent judgement in the Supreme Court Ruling on copyright (New York Times v. Tasini). The judgement, which confirms that compilation in an electronic database is different from other kinds of archival or library storage of material that once appeared in print, has also further separated the print and electronic by confirming that rights granted in one medium cannot be assumed in the other. Libraries have been wrangling over this topic since the introduction

Move to 'electronic'

- Serials became available online to members only in 2004

- These are the topics which were hot in 2006.

Open Access

- In 2014 *Insights* became platinum open access.

- All our content immediately available to read without subscription and without author payment.

- Publishing free to our authors because the costs are paid in their entirety by UKSG.

- Three issues per year.

We moved to continuous publishing in 2018

- accelerate article publication, particularly for time-sensitive content

- maximize the potential of the online medium

- spread the workload of editing, proofreading and producing the journal throughout the year

- increase the visibility and impact of each individual article

- 'Looking back, we could see we'd quite often been the first journal to publish on a topic, but we hadn't been able to establish a presence around that, and another paper in another journal would get all the limelight. We wanted to be able to give all our authors much better recognition.'

- **With thanks to** Rapple, Charlie. 2019. "insights Continuous Publication Case Study".Insights32 (1): 14. :http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.466

Part 2: Why write for a journal

Helen Fallon is the Deputy University Librarian at Maynooth University, and has had articles published in *Insights* and other journals

Why Write for a journal?

◦ To share your practice or your research

◦ To learn about a topic

◦ To help clarify thinking through exploring, developing and articulating ideas

◦ To get your research/practice out in a timely manner

◦ To be part of a community of practice

◦ To contribute to your organisation's publishing output

◦ To create

◦ Form of CPD

What can you write about

- Your research/thesis

- Your practice/everyday work/a project you were involved with
  Topic that interests you/topic you know a bit about

- Other – book you read, conference you attended, course you undertook etc.

- Consider what information – evidence - you have

- Consider what topics are popular

Literature review

Statistics

Survey

Quotes

Feedback forms

Photos

Reflective journal

UKSG
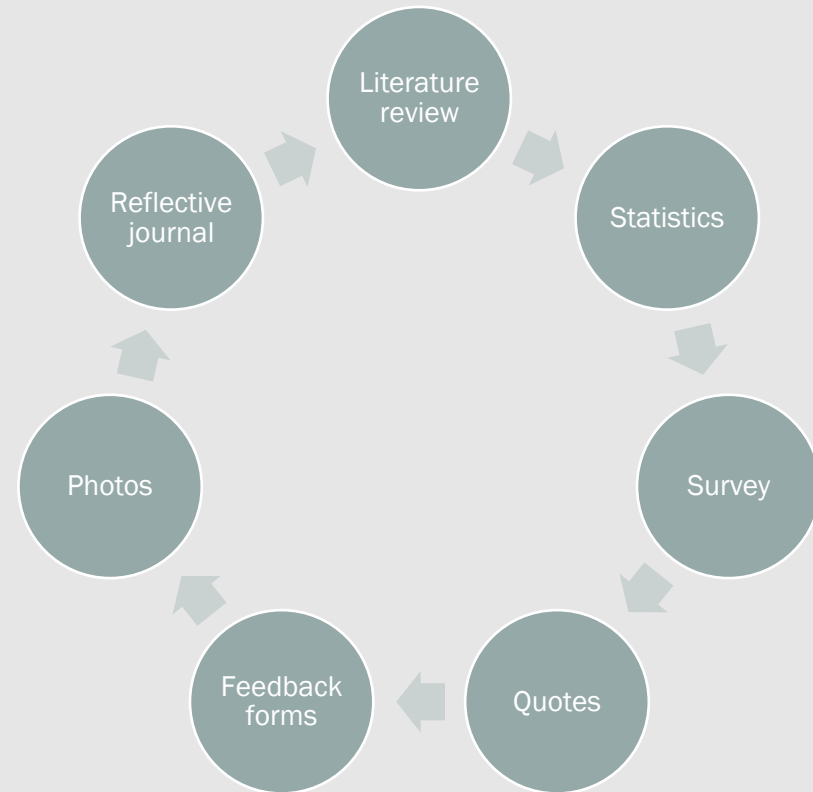
Practice and projects as a basis for academic publishing: case study from Maynooth University Library

Maynooth University (MU) Library has developed an organizational culture that promotes professional development for all Library staff. This has led to significant Library-oriented publishing and presenting at conferences nationally and internationally.

Focusing on the publishing aspect, this article contextualizes professional development — which is core to publishing and presenting — at MU Library. After a brief literature review, it explores how library practice can be the basis of professional and peer-reviewed articles and how academic writing is a relevant form of continuing professional development (CPD) for library staff at all grades.

The case study reviews publications by MU Library staff over a five-year period (2013–2018). It identifies the main types of publication, key publication outlets and the main topics covered.

It concludes with a reflection on a range of issues including the benefits and challenges of sustaining a writing culture.

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Assessing University Library Print Book Collections and Deselection: A Case Study at The National University of Ireland Maynooth

Elizabeth Murphy

📄 Full Article   🖼 Figures & data   📰 References   66 Citations   📊 Metrics   🖶 Reprints & Permissions   Get access

Abstract

This article discusses an assessment and deselection project of the modern print book collections in the John Paul II Library, National University of Ireland Maynooth. Following a contextual introduction and literature review, the article outlines the methodology, presents and discusses the results, and concludes with lessons learned. Although this project had its origins in planning for a major extension to the Library, its main aim was to ensure current and relevant print book collections. The purpose of the article is to share experience in the hope of it being useful to other libraries considering a review of print book collections.

KEYWORDS: collection management, university libraries

Using a World Café to Explore New Spaces and New Models for Front Line Services: A Case Study from the Irish University Library Sector

Helen Fallon & Laura Connaughton

Published online: 25 Jan 2016.

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Cataloguing the St. Canice's Cathedral Library Collection at Maynooth University

Yvette Campbell and Barbara McCormack[1]

Abstract

This article outlines the processes involved in cataloguing the historic St. Canice's Cathedral Library collection of over 3000 rare books. Cataloguing began on the collection in June 2015 and subsequently ceased in March 2016 to facilitate the main objective of allowing access to this collection without delay. Collection processing was carried out on a phased basis: the first stage was to list the material in the collection and then each item was catalogued to a minimum level. Priority was given to 14 of the rarer books in the collection to comply with the DCRM(B) rare books cataloguing standard, including four items of incunabula (pre-1500 printing). Phase 2 of this retrospective cataloguing project will include full bibliographical descriptions for all materials, following prescribed rules set forth in DCRM(B).

The challenges of cataloguing a rare books collection using the St. Canice's Collection as an example are considered. Metadata issues experienced in displaying such collections on library management systems are also discussed.

Keywords: *Rare Books, Retrospective Cataloguing, Metadata*

Introduction

1 Project Manager for the St. Canice's Cathedral Library Collection.

CONTENTS

Some Writing Tips

◦ Align your writing to library strategy

◦ If you give a conference/seminar paper/poster think about how you can develop it into an article/what questions did your audience ask?

◦ Keep notes about what you are doing – this could be ten minutes at the end of the day

◦ Keep data

◦ Be clear who the audience for your article is. What do they need?

◦ Do a quick search to see where your topic has been covered before. There are no new topics, just new angles. What's your angle?

◦ Don't write and then try to identify a journal/write with a journal in mind from the outset

◦ Read the journal guidelines and a recent issue or two

Some Writing Tips

◦ Write an abstract – it's a good discipline and will help you think out the topic

◦ You can use a case study in a peer-reviewed journal. You need to situate it in the context of the literature on the topic

◦ Work from a structure/outline. Examine the structure in an article in your target journal

◦ Send a query e-mail to a named person

◦ Try to write sections without editing

◦ Put a fence around your writing – more articles fail because they are too broad, than too narrow

◦ A writer is a person who writes

Benefits of Publishing

◦ Contributing to the body of literature on a topic, and making your contribution available OA, helps those with limited access to resources, particularly in the global south

◦ Sharing experiences an expertise and creating new knowledge

◦ Contributing to your organisations publishing output

◦ Increasing the visibility of the library and creating a recognition of the library as a creator of scholarship

◦ Enhancing Curriculum vitae

◦ The peer-review process helps develop confidence, perseverance and resilience - all good life skills

◦ Developing a reputation in a particular area, can lead to invitations to present papers at conferences

◦ Making new connections

◦ Developing professionally and personally – Learning

◦ The Joy of creating an article

Insights: Article types and examples

RESEARCH ARTICLES

CASE STUDIES

OPINION PIECES

Case Studies

Case studies should outline and describe innovative approaches or use of new techniques or technology, discuss progress including problems or setbacks, potential future applications and significance. In addition, papers that critique or modify extant methodologies and approaches are welcome.

Example:

Usage, engagement and impact: evaluating the usage of and measuring impact and engagement with library resources at Leeds Beckett University Library

Authors: Julie Cleverley and Samantha Heeson

Abstract

In 2017–18 Leeds Beckett University Library undertook a project to assess the feasibility of using OpenAthens and student record data to enable in-depth analysis of learning resources usage and costs, student engagement and library impact. This article describes the different approaches taken to evaluate usage of the Library's e-resources to identify levels of engagement at school and course level.

Research Articles

Research articles must describe the outcomes and application of unpublished original research. These should make a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding in the subject matter and should be supported by relevant figures and tabulated data. Example:

Tweeting into the void?: creating a UK library Twitter list and analyzing best practice – successes and myths

Author: Sarah Humphreys

Abstract

Despite the vast amount of research into social media use by libraries, no research has been made into its use by smaller UK libraries. Although many statements have been made regarding the time- and cost-saving nature of social media, there is a lack of comparative research about its usefulness in different types of library. To address these points, this study gathered statistics from 1,425 library accounts on the social media tool Twitter. Five smaller libraries were selected for a more in-depth metric…

Opinion Pieces

Opinion pieces should be well argued and should critically engage with the relevant body of extant literature where relevant. Opinions do not need to be supported by evidence, providing it is clear that they are opinions, and not based on research evidence.
Example:

Decolonizing the curriculum

Author: Elizabeth Charles

Abstract

The term 'decolonizing the curriculum' is of high currency in higher education in the UK and in local students' unions at these institutions. This article seeks to give a very brief history and context for why this is fundamental for academic institutions and what role libraries and the scholarly communication sector can play in this movement. I look at why this is so important for black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) and othered (otherly minoritized, e.g. disabled, LGBTQ, etc.) students and what steps some libraries have already taken.

Final word from the co-editors, Steve and Lorraine

We are incredibly proud to co-edit the UKSG journal.

Here we are enjoying last year's UKSG conference, where we met up with existing authors, and encouraged some of the fabulous speakers to write up their presentations as articles.

Perhaps now more than ever, as we were unable to run the UKSG conference this year, using articles as a vehicle for sharing our ideas and contributing to the debate about scholarly communications is more important than ever.

We hope you have been inspired by this webinar, and that you will be submitting an article soon!

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@helenfallon

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