



## UKSG eNews reaches 400!

*UKSG eNews 400*

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### Steve Sharp, Co-Editor, Insights

As with so many things in life as you get older, I find myself thinking "Where has the time gone?". And so it is as we come to mark the 400th issue of *UKSG eNews*. ("Can that really be possible?" I hear you cry!)

We are all so used to *UKSG eNews* landing in our inboxes every two weeks, that it is all too easy to forget the hard work and effort that goes into creating the newsletter. So, in my capacity as co-editor of UKSG's sister publication, *Insights*, I think that it is only fitting that I should start by congratulating the *UKSG eNews* editorial staff, both past and present, for doing such a wonderful job every fortnight! However, it isn't just the UKSG staff who make it all happen, it is also thanks to those individuals who share news and industry information, and, above all, who write such excellent editorials (some of which have proved so popular that we have persuaded their authors to expand the content into a full article for publication in *Insights*). We think the *UKSG eNews* [editorials](#) provide such a useful resource that we have made all the editorials published from January 2016 onwards freely available to read and share on the UKSG website.

It is also timely to reflect on the fact that UKSG itself turned forty this year, and that is largely down to the efforts of the late [John Merriman](#), who, sadly, passed away in 2011. But I am sure that we all agree his legacy lives well and truly on as UKSG continues to thrive. Those who were lucky enough to be in Harrogate in April will know what a sterling job Alison, Karen and the other UKSG staff did in laying on an amazing anniversary conference, and this was a fitting tribute to the 'old man on the dancefloor'. We listened, we talked, we rocked and we rolled to the fabulous Rollin' Stoned after dinner in the marquee! Above all, we came away better informed, and (possibly/hopefully) better people!

Anniversaries such as this also provide us with a great opportunity to reflect and to look back at what has been achieved over the last four decades. UKSG is so much more now than in its early days as the United Kingdom Serials Group. We are UKSG, pure and simple! As a community, we are strong, and as a community we have achieved so much that we couldn't have achieved individually. To celebrate its milestone birthday and to capture how UKSG, its members and its mission have continued to change and develop over its lifetime, a [short film](#) was commissioned, which was very well received at its premier at the conference in April.

One of the key aims of UKSG is "to stimulate research and collaborative initiatives, encourage innovation and promote standards for good practice" and, of course, we look to lead by example. Looking back, it is a history to be very proud of. Past work initiated by UKSG (and its partners) include: KBART (Knowledge Bases And Related Tools), which aims for standardised formats and best practice for metadata exchange eg for OpenURL knowledge bases. This work is now managed

by the NISO KBART Standing Committee. Other initiatives include Transfer, which makes everyone's lives easier by minimising disruption for subscribers when journals are transferred between publishers. This work too is now being managed by the NISO Transfer Standing Committee. And, of course, work has been undertaken to look at the development of Usage Factors, exploring how online journal usage statistics can be used as the basis of a new metric of journal value. This important work is now managed by COUNTER, who are best equipped to take it forward.

Like the annual conference, which goes from strength to strength, UKSG as an organisation too has grown over the years and as well as our highly successful education and events remit, we can also be very proud of our regular, quality publications. *UKSG eNews* itself remains a key member benefit and a key vehicle for sharing knowledge across the community. The UKSG journal *Serials* transitioned to become *Insights*, reflecting the broader scope of UKSG, and, of course, it became a fully OA publication. There are no charges to authors for publishing in *Insights* as UKSG covers the APCs. So there is no barrier to writing for *Insights*. Do consider giving it a go!

Anniversaries, like New Year's Eves, give us not only an opportunity to reflect on times past but to look forward to what lies ahead.

In 2016, the UKSG main committee took the decision to create some new staff roles to take UKSG forward and to provide greater capacity to enable UKSG to deliver even more. This began with the appointment of [Sarah Bull](#) in September 2016 and two additional posts have been recruited to support marketing and member engagement and administration activities. As part of its future planning, UKSG has established a new Outreach committee, and *UKSG eNews* will now sit within the scope of this group. [Leo](#) and [Helle](#) will continue to edit *UKSG eNews* but we hope by reinforcing the 'outreach' driver we will be able to increase the visibility and readership of *UKSG eNews*, enabling greater engagement with UKSG as a whole. If any members are interested in being involved in any outreach activity or indeed writing an editorial for a future issue of *UKSG eNews*, then please do get in touch with the editors.



This UKSG Editorial is taken from the industry newsletter *UKSG eNews*, published every two weeks exclusively for UKSG members. The newsletter provides up-to-the-minute news of current issues and developments within the global knowledge community.

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