ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Plenary Session 1

The UKSG – past and present
John Merriman, formerly Director of Blackwell's Periodicals Division
and founder of the UKSG
John Merriman will cover the origins of the UKSG and how it has evolved. He will explore the dynamics that have maintained its important position for 25 years in the information world, whilst at the same time remaining a friendly organisation.

How do we provide world-class research materials?
Brian K Follett, University of Oxford
The Research Libraries Support Group – a committee established by the Funding Councils, the British Library and the national libraries in Wales and Scotland – is beginning to develop its emerging conclusions. The objectives are, of course, to ensure that UK researchers continue to have access to world-class research materials of all types. It is likely that recommendations will cover the following areas: deeper resource sharing between research libraries in order to provide improved access, service and financial gains that can be spent on acquiring other materials, the future of the electronic library in the UK, national library catalogues, and the future of scholarly publishing.

The future of research from the publisher's perspective
Derk Haank, Elsevier Science
Abstract not available at the time of going to print.

Plenary Session 2

Online usage statistics – credible, consistent and compatible?
A progress report on efforts to create a workable code of practice
Richard Gedye, Oxford University Press
This presentation will examine why usage statistics for online information products are becoming increasingly important for both vendors and libraries. It will look at the current state of play in the provision of these statistics, outline what is unsatisfactory about it, and summarise the various current initiatives which aim to establish and get support for a code of practice that will deliver us statistical usage information which is credible, consistent, and compatible.

Particular attention will be paid to the work of the UK's PALS working group on vendor-based usage statistics, but equal emphasis will be placed on the vital need for all interested parties to share their individual resources, skills, and core strengths in the cause of agreeing a single code that can gain the respect and endorsement of all players in the inescapably interdependent world of information provision.

Changes in the value chain of scientific information
Hans E Roosendaal, University of Twente
Changes in the value chain of scientific information are discussed, in particular changes in this value chain induced by the use of Information and Communication Technology (IT). It is argued that IT is a very strong engine for change, as it has the potential not only to innovate the research information system but also the educational information system or even the education system at large. Widespread use of IT allows universities to change from supply-push to demand-pull education. This will open up universities for new cohorts of students, in particular virtual 'Wanderstudenten', leading to new business opportunities for universities. A *conditio sine qua non* for this development is that universities will create their own publishing and archiving environments. These environments will use the same technology as is used in research publishing. This development leads to a new value chain and consequentially to new business models. It is argued that these developments will allow a transition from a low volume/high margin system to a high volume/low margin system with more symmetrical roles in the value chain for universities and publishers and with ample opportunities for publishers for forward and backward integration.

Plenary Session 3

SPARC ignites change in the scholarly communication system
Julia C Blixrud, SPARC
Since its inception nearly four years ago, SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) has been helping to focus attention on the need for change in the traditional system of scholarly publishing. Using the strategies of education, advocacy, and incubation of competitive alternatives, SPARC has engaged the interest of scientists and scholars in how their research is disseminated. SPARC's programmes include a variety of economic models and demonstration projects,
including head-to-head competition and collaborative ventures. The focus for 2002 is on support for the development of institutional archives and in developing a sustainable role for libraries. With the launching of SPARC Europe, a stronger international presence will be advanced.

Geometry and Topology Publications – a community-based publication initiative
Colin Rourke, Mathematics Department, University of Warwick
Colin Rourke will outline the pressures and challenges which led him and his colleagues to set up the primarily electronic journal *Geometry and Topology*. Colin will also give a brief history of the venture. *Geometry and Topology* has now extended to become Geometry and Topology Publications which publishes two journals and a monograph series. All three are doing well.

Plenary Session 4

Scientists as authors: the future of publishing
Steven M Bachrach, Department of Chemistry, Trinity University
Science publication is an unusual business in that the consumer community and the producer community are essentially one and the same. Commercial and societal publishers have exploited this situation, however, electronic media offers an opportunity to radically change the environment. In this paper Steven Bachrach will describe the underlying cause of the 'journals crisis', offer a few scenarios for a better way of publishing and give some cautionary words for the library community.

Concurrent Session 1

Electronic information in the UK: state of the art
Alicia Wise, Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)
The DNER, MLEs and VLEs, Grids ... what do all these things mean, and how do/will (will?) they all fit together? Believe it or not, all are very important for the delivery of electronic journals in the UK and further afield.

The National Electronic Library Programme FinELib – the backbone of the information supply in the electronic research environment in Finland
Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, Helsinki University Library, National Library of Finland
The National Electronic Library Programme, FinELib, has grown from project to permanent activity within a couple of years. The number of licence agreements and the number of consortium members have grown significantly. Today there are about 7,200 foreign scientific journals, 100 reference databases, law resources, dictionaries and other material that is freely accessible on the web. The consortium comprises 102 organisations covering all universities in Finland, polytechnics, public libraries and several research institutes. User surveys are run annually and feedback on the service from users has been extremely positive. Researchers and students are hoping that the content will become even more varied and wide-ranging, and that the material will become easier to use. The programme is developing into a truly national service.

Concurrent Session 2

Knowledge management – the reality? (panel session)
Malcolm Hafner, divine
Kim Horwood, PTSC (DTI)
Mark Field, CILIP
What exactly is knowledge management? Why is it something that the serials industry should be considering? What relevance does it have in an industry that is continually adapting and developing to meet the enormous changes which are taking place? How do you actually 'do it'? This panel discussion will look at the poisoned chalice that is KM and consider, "What is the reality?".

Plenary Session 5

Partnerships: finding common ground across the sectors
Liz Hart, Staffordshire University
This presentation will provide a brief outline of the drivers towards partnership. The main section will concentrate on a more detailed examination of the reality of working across the sectors in education, examine the potential for 'sharing' all kinds of resource and finally move on to an example of the 'future vision' for a shared library facility between Future and Higher Education and the public library service.

Plenary Session 6

Will PELICAN fly?
Charles Oppenheim, Department of Information Science, Loughborough University
A description will be given of the eLib-funded PELICAN project, and its results. PELICAN lasted from November 2000 to October 2001, but the final report has not yet been published by JISC, though it is available on the Loughborough University website. The project focused on possible charging algorithms for publishers giving licences to Higher Education Institutions to digitise and then disseminate the digitised book chapters to taught course students, but the results could apply to serials. Authors, academics, publishers, librarians and students were interviewed, and participated in focus groups and in workshops together.

Using this variety of data collecting tools, stakeholders were asked to identify their concerns about pricing models, and the ideal business model for them. Precise figures were not discussed. The transcripts were analysed using Atlas/ti, a well-known ethnographic software. Inevitably, there was disagreement on some topics, but there was a remarkable amount of consensus regarding the best ways forward. As a result of PELICAN, three possible charging models were developed. These were presented to the PELICAN Conference in September 2001 and, as a result of comments received, have since been modified. These modified models will be described in the presentation, together with their pros and cons and their implications. Each of them represents possible ways forward for scholarly electronic journals.

The Harvard-Mellon E-Journal Archiving Program – an overview and update
David Sommer, Blackwell Publishing
Harvard University Library has received a one-year planning grant from the Mellon Foundation to create a plan for archiving electronic journals. During this planning year, Harvard has explored and defined the technical issues of content, format and deposit mechanisms, access control and interface requirements, long-term preservation guidelines, costs of development, operation and maintenance of the working archive, and financial models for a sustainable archive. Harvard is collaborating with three publishers to explore how the archive might operate. David Sommer will give an overview of progress made so far, and an update on the next steps for the project.

Plenary Session 7

Disassembling and reassembling: the convergence of e-books and e-journals
Ian Middleton, EBSCO Information Services
For centuries scholarly information has been effectively packaged, disseminated and stored in books and journals. Do these traditional formats so dominant in the print world remain valid in an electronic age, where digital communication now offers greater flexibility and effectiveness in the communication, storage and retrieval of information? This paper will discuss how books and journals now in digital form have become malleable and, now we are able to disassemble, how and why we should reassemble.

Electronic or print: are scholarly journals still important?
Carol Tenopir, School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee
There are many alternatives for scholarly publishing today, including traditional print journals, peer-reviewed electronic journals, e-print servers, databases of articles, or self-archiving. The first two follow the 'journals' title model of bundled issues of related information, while the last three options provide separate articles out of the context of an entire journal. All of these options bring some advantages and are likely to coexist for quite some time. Evidence from research on reading habits of scientists suggests that peer-reviewed journals, whether print or electronic, are valued because scientists read many articles and the information they find in journal articles is essential to their work. If the price gets too high or access is impeded for any reason, however, scientists use a variety of ways to get articles. Electronic journals or electronic separates are readily adopted when it is convenient. Scientists read separate articles from a growing variety of journal titles, but there are core journal titles in each discipline for which traditional models are important.