ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Plenary Session 1

Does more access mean less library?
Simon Mays-Smith, Credit Suisse First Boston
Financial markets have been paying close attention to academic library budgets and journal pricing trends. This paper tries to explain why. It suggests that, although cyclical budget pressures are likely to ease, structural funding pressures remain. It goes on to examine how the academic community have sought to resolve these funding issues (e.g. un-bundling, author pays open access and open archiving) and suggests that none of these solutions are likely to succeed. Finally, the paper looks at changes to the 'process of scientific discovery', driven by technology, time pressure and Government regulation, which are driving researchers out of libraries and onto their desktop computers. This is likely to result in less library, but also less traditional journal publishing.

Commercial scholarly publishing in the world of open access
Derk Haank, Springer Science+Business Media
In the last ten years scientific publishing has undergone massive changes. The commercial publishers have sometimes led the changes and sometimes followed the initiatives of new entrants. In his presentation Derk Haank will give his view on what has happened and for what reasons. And where do we stand now in this process? Is it nearly finished or are the changes just starting?

Plenary Session 2

Walking away from the Big Deal: the consequences and achievements
Nancy J Gibbs, Duke University Libraries
In 2004 the four member libraries of the Triangle Research Libraries Network in the United States did not renew their 'big deals' with two large e-journal packages: Elsevier's ScienceDirect and Blackwell's Synergy products. This talk will detail how the libraries educated their users of this decision; worked with university administrators and users about this decision; what the libraries continue to do to meet users' needs for journal issues in these two packages; and the continuing efforts they employ to work with the individual publishers to resolve issues and develop solutions regarding scholarly communication on their individual campuses.

All or nothing: towards an orderly retreat from Big Deals – recent negotiations in The Netherlands
Nol Verhagen, University of Amsterdam
Big deals are seductive and addictive. That is why some librarians love them and others hate them – and many librarians do both. This presentation will explore the opportunities but also the challenges of big deals, both from a financial perspective and from the perspective of content. Even if big deals represent the best value for money model, the lack of flexibility will cause severe problems with respect to the sustainability of the model. Big deals can as easily deteriorate the coherence of a consortium as enforce it. This will be illustrated with recent experiences in The Netherlands.

The IReL experience: Irish Research Electronic Library
Fiona McGoldrick, IRIS: the Consortium of Irish University and Research Libraries
The seven Irish universities are receiving supplementary funding from Science Foundation Ireland and the Higher Education Authority, initially over five years, to provide e-access to a range of journal literature, including publishers' packages and single titles. This initiative is known as IReL - Irish Research e-Library. Initially targeting the fields of biotechnology and ICT, it is planned to expand it to encompass a broader range of subjects and other research institutions. Content Complete Ltd has been appointed negotiating agent, and the managing agency is IRIS, which co-ordinates information and makes payments centrally. A model licence is being used, and two- to three-year contracts are being signed. Access is provided via local websites at the universities.

Plenary Session 3

Experimenting with open access publishing
Martin Richardson, Oxford University Press
Oxford Journals is conducting a number of experiments with open access publishing and institutional repositories, in order to develop a better understanding of their potential to provide efficient and cost-effective mechanisms for dissemination of scholarly research. This presentation will review data obtained from two case studies with a view to illustrating some of the key issues in the current debate concerning emerging business models.

'Are they open yet?': the impact of open access publishing on research libraries
Paul Ayris, *UCL (University College London)*
The talk will assess the impact of Institutional Repositories on the Information Landscape in the UK. From a standing start, the UK has become one of the major players in Institutional Repository development across the world. What kind of use is being made of the repositories? How engaged are academics and researchers with this new model? What are the drivers to embed repositories in the institutional Information Landscape? What are the constraints on such developments? What will happen next? The paper will address all these questions and attempt to identify some answers.

Public access, open archives – a funder's perspective
Mark Walport, Wellcome Trust
From a funder's perspective the dissemination of the results of research is an intrinsic part of the research process. In the UK the majority of university research is funded by public sources – the public should therefore be able to access the results of this research. The traditional model for dissemination is through scientific publication in subscription-based journals. Increasingly, the development of new technologies is providing powerful and creative ways of dissemination at high quality, and at lower cost and wider reach than traditional models. This talk will explore alternative models of publishing, public access and open archives, and the growing worldwide movement towards these new models. Issues for consideration in the evolution of scientific publishing will also be highlighted.

Concurrent Session 1

VLEs: setting the scene
Alicia Wise, Publishers Licensing Society
What sort of content could be in virtual learning environments, at what level of granularity, and how might it get there? This session will report on the views of some leading librarians, publishers, VLE vendors and e-learning practitioners regarding these key questions.

The implementation of a VLE: not so virtual after all
Frances Boyle, Oxford University Library Services
In this session, which complements the previous speaker's session, we will look at the many pragmatic issues involved in the development, rollout and take-up of a VLE. I also aim to consider how VLEs may or may not fit into the wider e-learning landscape and where, if anywhere, they are going and where, more importantly, the users are in all this development.

Concurrent Session 2

Journal access programmes for developing countries: who has access to what, and does it work?
Barbara Aronson, World Health Organization
One of the most dramatic consequences of the move from print to online journal publishing has been the opportunity to provide large-scale access to information in the developing world. A number of online journal programmes have evolved in the last five years which target this user group. The programmes – created by publishers, development agencies, universities, international agencies, and sometimes all of these together – vary in subject scope, the regions of the world and numbers of countries they target, the audiences they aim to reach, and in the ways they work. Some of this diversity mirrors developments in the industrialised world. But there are also new elements, and the lessons learned may be useful far beyond the original context. Though barriers to access still exist in many parts of the developing world, these programmes have done much to improve access to scholarly information in some of the most resource-poor settings. There is currently a confluence of factors that provide optimism for the future. The availability of high quality content through collaborative programmes, new opportunities for modifying regulations that have stymied the growth of the information sector, and advances in technical infrastructure in the developing world are coming together to create a brighter view for the future. This presentation will give an overview of the major programmes – such as INASP's PERI (Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information), WHO's HINARI (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative), FAO's AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) and e-IFL – and consider the implications for future developments.

How AGORA is improving access to up-to-date scholarly literature in Africa
Gracian Chimwaza, TEEAL Africa Office – Cornell University, Mann Library
Access to up-to-date scientific literature at institutions in Africa has long been a challenge, if not non-existent, due mainly to lack of funds. Researchers and students have been left with no choice but to use old, sometimes irrelevant literature found in small antiquated library collections. The provision of full-text journal literature through innovative electronic resources such as TEEAL, AGORA and HINARI in the last five years to African scientists has made a significant change in the way they work. Over 1,500 research centres and faculties in agriculture and health now access up-to-date articles and thousands of users are benefiting.

African Journals Online (AJOL) – raising the visibility of African research
Pippa Smart, International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)
In recent years the availability of western-published research has improved dramatically, mostly due to the opportunities offered by the Internet. Although this has benefited researchers around the world, it is potentially disadvantaging all research publications that have not been able to take advantage of this medium, as they become overshadowed by online competition. Even before the Internet became such an important vehicle for research information, most African journals struggled to survive and therefore already lacked a presence within the global (or local) research community. The availability of a wealth of international e-information through initiatives such as HINARI, PERI and AGORA has benefited African researchers – but caused African publications to become even more

invisible. However, the African research communities regard local and regional information highly, since it is often more relevant, more culturally sensitive and enables identification of partners for local research collaboration. African Journals OnLine (AJOL) was launched by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) in 1998 to provide a global presence for African journals, and now hosts almost 200 titles from 21 African countries. The service has been a great success, with over 12,000 registered users, monthly page downloads in excess of 10,000, and over 2,000 document delivery requests fulfilled in 2004. Further support has been provided to participating journals through training workshops, partnership and mentoring, and access to resources. However, even though there is increased visibility and communication with the global research community, many of the journals on AJOL still struggle; many publish late or cease publishing for periods of time, and several continue to publish poor quality. There are also problems of communication, where some journals cease to submit content and cannot be contacted, leading to a mistaken belief that they are no longer publishing. Although AJOL has been a successful initiative, it has also highlighted the increasing needs of African journals for more support, greater resource-sharing and new models of publishing in order that they can not only survive, but also perform the functions and roles that are required of them – to capture indigenous knowledge and research, and to promote that research locally and worldwide.

Plenary Session 4

How usage statistics can inform national negotiations and strategies – a report on the JISC NESLi2 usage statistics project
Simon J Bevan, Cranfield University
This presentation will describe the methodology, results and recommendations of the recent report submitted to JISC looking at NESLi2 usage statistics. The aim of the study was to inform JISC in future negotiations and to help libraries to assess value for money. It used JR1 COUNTER-compliant data from a selection of publishers, and a representative sample of libraries from different JISC bandings to gain a national overview of usage patterns. The quantitative study was augmented with library case study interviews which provided a chance for Librarians to express their opinions about current NESLi deals.

The library view of usage metrics
Jill Taylor-Roe, Newcastle University
Journal expenditure in research-led academic libraries typically represents the largest single element of the resource budget. It is therefore no surprise that librarians have long sought to acquire robust and meaningful usage data to help them assess whether the institution is receiving value for money in relation to such a major investment. They have also sought to utilise this data to refine their collection development strategies. Usage data in the printed journal environment was often complicated to extract and time-consuming to concatenate, especially when current journal parts could be reference only, whilst precurrent issues were in bound volumes with variable loan categories. Even at its best, analysing usage data in the print world was a very imperfect science. The emergence of electronic journals as the increasingly dominant format has radically altered the library landscape. COUNTER-compliant usage data is now readily available from many publishers' or aggregators' web servers. When analysed, this data enables library managers to observe usage trends at a level of detail not previously accessible with printed journals. If utilised in conjunction with full economic costs of journal provision and other core indicators (e.g. staff and student FTEs, costs of individual document delivery or ILL), it demonstrates how libraries are beginning to acquire the tools they need to make mature cost-benefit judgments about journal acquisitions. Given that the prevalent purchasing models for e-journal content have effectively abrogated the selective approach to collection management, it is increasingly important that libraries are able to assess the degree to which large, multidisciplinary packages are earning their keep. Expenditure on these packages has to be justified against

the ever-present demand for new journals, which is invariably expressed at individual title level. It has never been harder to balance the books, or keep all the customers satisfied. This paper will consider these and other related issues within the context of a benchmarking project currently being carried out at the Robinson Library of Newcastle University.

Plenary Session 5

Change and continuity in a world of information
Mike Clark, GeoData Institute, University of Southampton
The presentation will address the very broad challenges of information dissemination and application in a technology-dominated world. The weaknesses as well as the strengths of information technology will be considered in the context of information-driven professions such as the media and the publishers. Basic to the argument will be the apparent contention between the two words in the term 'artificial intelligence', and related issues will be discrimination, innovation and the threat of managerialism. In support of the underlying message that the time has come to think well outside the box, every effort will be made to avoid substantive statements and conclusions – the aim of the presentation is simply to encourage discussion and the subversion of convention.

Snap, crackle and ultimately pop? The future for serials
Colin Steele, Australian National University
This closing paper will focus on a variety of futures for serials in both serious and light-hearted vein. Major themes emerging through the conference will be overviewed and extrapolated into future scenarios for authors, serial agents, publishers, librarians and readers/consumers. Issues summarised will include acquisition costs of serials (the 'front end'), serial resource management in the digital environment (the 'back end'), user behaviour patterns, open access futures, the serial deconstruction of the academic monograph and the impact of new and continuing research assessment requirements on serial publishing trends and opportunities.