Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

Daryl Rayner
xrefer, daryl@xrefer.com
It is good to see that Spring — even Summer — appears to have finally arrived in London. My colleagues and I, in an attempt to get fit, have been running around Hyde Park at lunchtime. The pain of the run (and it doesn’t appear to be getting any easier) is slightly softened by the beautiful flowers that are now in full bloom and the spectacle of people in rowing boats and pedalo’s on the Serpentine.

Last week I travelled up to Manchester to speak to a group of librarians in the Central Library in St Peters Square. Eddy Hornby from Stockport libraries <eddy.hornby@stockport.gov.uk> did a terrific job in organising the meeting. It is some time since I have been to Manchester and I was totally bowled over by the wonderful buildings in the city. The central library is in a stunning round building <http://www.ukattraction.com/north-west-england/central-library.htm> with the most amazing collection of books. I recommend a visit if any of you are planning a trip to the UK in the near future.

More news from around the continent. The British Library has just launched its biggest ever digitalisation programme for a new website called Collect Britain. According to the British Library, “the site will go online on 1st May and by 2004 you’ll be able to see and hear a staggering 100,000 images and sounds from our world-renowned collections — without ever coming to London.” <http://www.bl.uk/about/inplaceintro.html> I’m not sure that the British Tourist Board will approve.

JISC are inviting librarians “to come to a one-day seminar introducing you to the full range of JISC and other nationally-funded resources and services available online for the Arts and Humanities.” Their road show, which is taking place between June and September, will be held at prestigious universities such as Kings College in London and the University of Oxford. You can see the full programme at: <http://www.humblu.ac.uk/events/.

The German Resources Project (GRP) meeting will take place in Munich at the Goethe Forum on Tuesday, July 29th <http://www.inf.unif.tum.de/iaas/WESS/Munich.htm>. The conference language is to be English (phew!).

The annual IFLA meeting will take place in Berlin this August from 1st-9th. I hope to see some of you there. But also in August (17th-22nd) is the time in Trondheim, Norway for the 7th European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries. The International Conference on Grey Literature will take place in Amsterdam from 4th-5th December at the “Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science” <http://

Rumors

from page 10

that it would take $250 million to digitize 8 million volumes in the Stanford libraries plus there are always copyright problems. Read this article. It’s an inspiration! <http://www.iht.com/articles/959999.htm>

And, speaking of books coming up for publication. The College of Charleston’s crack Archivist Gene Waddell has just completed a two-volume work on Charleston Architecture, 1670-1860. I can’t wait to see it. It’s already listed on Amazon.com. Out in November just in time for the Conference!

The South-Central Library Consortium of Pennsylvania (SCLCPA) and Docutek have announced the selection of Docutek VRLplus as the virtual reference library solution for the seventeen libraries across four counties in south-central Pennsylvania that make up the consortium. SCLCPA is different from most in that its members include a mix of public, academic, K-12 and special libraries; currently nine SCLCPA libraries are using Docutek VRLplus. SCLCPA serves a largely rural population and the addition of digital reference services extends the library to those patrons who are unable to visit a local library. <http://www.sulp.edu/library/sclcpa/index.html>