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Rmo(u)rs from Paddington

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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212)
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The summer has been sports-crazy here in the United Kingdom. First the **World Cup** where the whole of England came to a stand-still whilst, for a few weeks, we all believed that we really could win it (what optimism!); then **Wimbledon** (where we transferred our golden Jubilee hopes onto our golden boy: **Tim Henman**); followed by the **Golf Open** in Muirhead, Scotland and finally the **Commonwealth Games** up in Manchester. I was wondering if librarians were experiencing lower footfalls as a result of all the sport being shown on television or were there simply more enquiries for David Beckham's autobiography. After a particularly nail-biting **England World Cup** football (soccer) match I asked **Louise Edwards** of **Cranfield University** if she had watched the game. She told me that they had had the TV on in the library at **Cranfield**, but with the sound turned off!! It is hard to imagine experiencing all that tension in silence!

Back to the real world. The **British Library** have opened their online bookshop (<http://www.bl.uk/services/publica->

[tations/onlineshop.html](http://www.bl.uk/services/publications/onlineshop.html)). Here you will find a selection of books, CDs and CD-ROMs published by the British Library. These include the Library's catalogues, a wide range of illustrated books and books about books, and audio CDs produced by the **National Sound Archive**.

The **68th IFLA General Conference and Council** is being held in Glasgow, Scotland this year. Its key theme is "Libraries for life: democracy, diversity, delivery." The sub-theme is "Building on the past-investing in the future." It will no doubt, be a lively and informative conference.

Also in Scotland during August is the **Edinburgh Book Festival**, where, I am informed, **Harold Pinter**, **Alan Bennett** and **Seamus Heaney** are among the literary stars who will be attending.


In early summer **ExCel** in Docklands, London hosted for the first time the **Library and Information Show**. It was a well visited event with school, academic, corporate and public li-

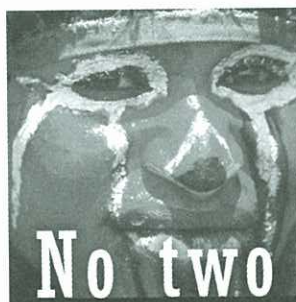
brarians all attending. The programme had something for everyone. Speakers included the knowledgeable **Professor Charles Oppenheim** from the Department of Information Science at **Loughborough University** on recent developments in Copyright Law, **David Murray** from the **London Libraries Development Agency (LLDA)** on the key issues impacting libraries in the near future and the ever-energetic **David Brown**, Strategy Director at the **Ingenta Institute** speaking about "User behaviour in sourcing scholarly information."

The ever-enthusiastic **Peter Bolger** of **Gateshead Central Library** has launched the first UK public library live help service (<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/libraries/index.html>). We wish him luck!

Gabriel, the Gateway to Europe's National Libraries has been relaunched and is now available in a totally revised form at <http://portico.bl.uk/gabriel/>. **Gabriel** covers 41 European national libraries from the 39 countries that are represented in the **Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)** (http://portico.bl.uk/gabriel/about_cenl/general/about_frame_en.html). It is a multilingual Internet service offering access to consistently structured information about European national libraries, with details about their printed and electronic collections as well as instructions on how to gain access to their online catalogues and services. Information is offered in the most commonly-used European languages: English, French and German.

The **National Reading Campaign** in the UK is running its second Swap-a-Book promotion on Friday, September 6th. Ideas for this simple-to-run event have been posted on the Literacy Trust website at <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/campaign/swapabook.html>. I'm told that at last year's event, London Taxi Drivers were one of the groups involved in highest levels of book swapping!

BioMed Central, the maverick **Vitek Trakz's** publishing enterprise, has issued a pledge to "allay fears that open access publishing will be crushed by the financial muscle of conventional publishers who might try and buy open access publishers like **BioMedCentral** and "nip the development of open access journals in the bud." **Jan Velterop**, publisher at **BioMed Central**, has set up an independent board of trustees — including **Sir Richard Peto** of **Oxford University** and **Sir Paul Nurse** of **Cancer Research UK** — to judge whether the right guarantees are in place, should there ever be a change in ownership. 



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