

June 1999

International Dateline-From the UK-UK Serials Group Annual Conference, European Federation of Serials Groups

Martin White

TFPL, Ltd., London, Martin.White@tfpl.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

White, Martin (1999) "International Dateline-From the UK-UK Serials Group Annual Conference, European Federation of Serials Groups," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 11: Iss. 3, Article 32.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3925>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

International Dateline — From the UK

by Martin White (TFPL) <Martin.White@TFPL.com>



Profile Encouraged

David Marshall
Head of Acquisitions and Serials
Georgetown University

Born when and where: Jackson, Michigan during the Christmas rush of 1943. I didn't get any birthday presents that year either (those with December birthdays will know what I mean), but I was my brother and sister's present. They had me placed under the tree when I was delivered home.

Current residence: Washington, D.C. The Last Colony

Education: Jackson Junior College, A.A., 1964; University of Michigan, B.A., 1969; M.L.S., 1971; Universidad Catolica, Quito, Ecuador, 1977; Georgetown University, M.A., 1978 (Latin American Area Studies)

Summary of job experience: My first job was in a restaurant where I progressed from bus-boy to bartender to maitre d'; my first library job was in the **Medical Library at the University of Michigan** where I progressed from paging (if anyone remembers that concept) and shelving books, to the circulation desk, to serials checkin; to the **Engineering/Transportation Library at Michigan** where I supervised a serials conversion project; to **Georgetown University** where I began as a cataloger, became Gifts Librarian, Head of the Searching Unit, Assistant Acquisitions Librarian, and now Head of Acquisitions & Serials. Seems like my working life has progressed on parallel tracks. Unfortunately, the latter does not include tips.

Family: My greatest rewards are my nieces and nephews Connie, Larry and Denise, Michael, Lisa and Kurt, Marty and Barb; and their children Adam, Hannah, Zoey, Alex, Christopher and Lindsay Ann (in chronological order, I hope).

Proudest accomplishment or most recent accomplishment: simply my work with ACQWEB.

Fondest Memory: Guess this goes to the macabre: The ashes of the husband and wife donors of the rare book collection to the University Michigan Medical Library were (still are?) included with the collection—a stipulation of the gift as I best remember. I enjoyed spooking new employees with the tale. They never believed it; I loved marching them into the head librarian's office where the collection and urns were kept at that time and watch the looks of disbelief as he pulled the urn from a cupboard—he enjoyed doing this too!

Favorite pastime: Pool (the Eight Ball variety)

Hobbies: Genealogy

Last book read or literary tastes: Biography, history, and Pre-Columbian history—William Manchester's *The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill, vol. 1*.

Pet peeve (what really drives you crazy): Publishers and vendors who change their email addresses and Web links every nanosecond.

What would you like to be doing five years from now: Sipping margaritas on a sunny beach.

Denmark. The conference took place on the campus of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology on 12-14 April, and attracted 528 delegates, making it by far the largest conference in the history of the UKSG. Over 16% of the delegates were from outside of the UK, with a substantial contingent from France. There were also more exhibitors this year, including **Project Muse** and **Science**.

One of the innovations this year was that the workshops were run three times over the course of the conference, which gave manageable numbers in each session to facilitate some degree of interactivity. There were the usual product review sessions, timed to exactly seven minutes by a number of competent chairmen. As to the European Quiz, the discos and the dinner, I had better remain silent.

As with any conference this size, views on individual papers vary enormously, but the attendance at all the sessions was high (though the attractions of Manchester are not quite the same as Charleston) and few delegates were observed falling asleep. Some were very good, including **Albert Prior** (Swets & Zeitlinger) who gave the results of a small scale survey he had conducted among nearly 40 publishers about their attitudes to electronic journal delivery. What was very interesting about this survey was the extent to which publishers are starting to see pay-per-article as a potential revenue source that is not affecting ongoing subscription revenues. Thirty-seven percent of the publishers in the sample already offered this option, and 14% were considering doing so. Also from the survey came the messages that electronic subscriptions are increasingly being unbundled, and that most publishers are still negotiating subscription packages on a case-by-case basis.

I was also interested in a paper by **Diann Rusch-Feja**, of the **Max Planck Institute for Human Development**, in which she outlined the various academic consortia that are being set up in Germany. The funding and management of universities in Germany is carried out at a State (Lander) level, and this makes it very difficult to establish anything like the NESLI scheme in the UK. Indeed there are some legal issues around the creation and activities of these consortia that

“Most publishers are still negotiating subscription packages on a case-by-case basis.”

This year the **UK Serials Group Annual Conference** was a combined event with the **European Federation of Serials Groups**, whose current chairman is **Claus Vesterager Pedersen** of the State and University Library, Aarhus, seem quite daunting. On the good news front, a German serials group is in the stages of being formed, but here again there are some legal issues that need to be settled in determining the constitution of the group.

David Pullinger, formerly with **Nature**, gave a very interesting paper on the differences between the way that science and humanities researchers use electronic journals, and **Robert Welham**, **Royal Society of Chemistry**, shed some light on the **SPARC** initiative. **Charles Oppenheim** (Loughborough University) was again in excellent form on copyright and other legal issues.

The presentation by **Julia Chruszcz** (University of Manchester) on NESLI was noteworthy for how little she said about the problems that NESLI has experienced in getting the project off the ground. So far only **Blackwell Science** have signed a full agreement, and although there is a lot of talking

going on, it is now getting close to the 99/00 subscription year with not a great deal to show for the first year of effort, though I do know that both **Swets** (as Managing Agent) and the **University of Manchester** have put all their best efforts behind the project. However, they are dealing with publishers!

On the exhibitor front, not a great deal to report, though **Blackwell Information Services** has signed an agreement with **Ingenta** (ex BIDS) to develop their electronic subscription management systems. All

the subscription agents are now providing quite a substantial amount of information to support their customers, relating to licence agreements in particular.

Overall a very good conference (though I am on the Marketing Committee of UKSG) which would not have happened without a huge commitment of time from **Jill Tolson** (UKSG), **Christine Fyfe** (University of Warwick), **Tony Kidd** (University of Glasgow) and **Terry Morrow** (Ingenta Ltd). The papers will be published in the July and November issues of **Serials**, and plans are already being made for the 23rd **UKSG Annual Conference** on 10-12 April 2000 at the University of Keele. There is nowhere near the same amount of room, so do look out for details on the UKSG Web site at <http://www.uksg.org>.