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Rumo(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;
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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 pedalos 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 digitisation programme for a new Website called **Collect Britain**. According to the **British Library**, "the site will go online on 21 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.humbul.ac.uk/events/>.

The **German Resources Project (GRP)** meeting will take place in Munich at the **Goethe Forum** on Tuesday, July 29th <http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/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. Also in August (17th-22nd), but this time in Trondheim, Norway 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://](http://www.textrelease.com/pages/2/index.htm)

www.textrelease.com/pages/2/index.htm.

I can report that the May issue of the **Internet Resource Newsletter** is now available. <http://www.hw.ac.uk/libwww/irn/irn104/irn104.html>. Edited as always, by the tireless **Roddy Macleod** of **Herriot Watt University** <R.A.MacLeod@hw.ac.uk>.

I am told that the **UK Serials Group** had a very successful meeting in April also at **Herriot Watt University** with over 500 delegates attending. Speakers included **Jonathan Eaton** from the **London Business School**, **Richard Gedy** from **Oxford University Press** and **Jan Velterop** from **BioMedCentral**. The presentations can be downloaded from <http://www.uksg.org/events/previous.asp>.

At **Roehampton University** a restructuring has led to **Adam Edwards** being made Head of Academic Liaison and Customer Development and **Elizabeth Powis** as Customer Development Manager. **Richard Beveridge** has joined **Instant Library's** Business Development team. He was previously at **Dialog** and bankers **Lazard Brothers and Co**. **Richard** will be developing **Instant Library's** commercial customer base.

And finally, at **xrefer** we are pleased to announce that we now have an office in Boston headed up by **Jeffrey LaPlante** <Jeffrey.laplante@xrefer.com> and that **Richard Charkin** <r.charkin@macmillan.co.uk> has recently become our Chairman. Until next time....**Daryl**.

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Library services face to face

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/95999.htm>

And, speaking of books coming up for publication. The College of Charleston's crack Architect **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 than 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.ship.edu/~library/sclcpa/index.html>

continued on page 14