

SCONUL Focus is the journal of SCONUL, the Society of College, National and University Libraries.

SCONUL Focus aims to bring together articles, reports and news stories from practitioners in order to generate debate and promote good practice in the national libraries and the university and college sector. As well as the paper copy, the current issue of *SCONUL Focus* is also available electronically via the SCONUL website (<http://www.sconul.ac.uk>). Contributions are welcomed from colleagues in all fields and at all levels: we merely request that the items contributed are concise, informative, practical and (above all!) worth reading.

Opinions expressed in *SCONUL Focus* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SCONUL.

Now we are 50

Hello and welcome to our 50th issue!

Such an occasion as this is a time for looking back and also for looking forward. We take a wry look back over fifty issues of *SCONUL Focus* (née *Newsletter*) and also consider how technology has changed since the journal first appeared in 1994. We also look forward with news of technological developments (from cloud computing and social networking to current awareness tools and QR codes) as well as two reviews of 23 Things. A full review of the SCONUL Conference also ponders some of the challenges we will all face in the near future, especially on the economic front.

On a more personal level, *SCONUL Fifty* is a time for me to look back as I stand down after ten years as Editor of *SCONUL Newsletter/Focus*. This has been a wonderful – and sometimes weird – experience.

Of the fifty issues, thirty were put together by me and my editorial team. I feel we have been largely successful in growing what was in 2000 still a ‘newsletter’ to make it a fully fledged journal. The article that follows this editorial explains how *SCONUL Focus* has grown from humble beginnings to the publication you see today.

Still, things have not always gone to plan. For issue 42, our ‘international issue’, we planned to get an international guest editor. Who was the most internationally famous ‘librarian’ at the time? Laura Bush, the First Lady of the USA. I did email her explaining that ‘the leading academic library journal in the UK’ would be honoured if

she could write a few words for an editorial, etc, etc. I received a generic response thanking me for my suggestion and saying that her aides would look into it.

I think they are still looking.

We got luckier with ‘real’ librarians and most of the potential authors the Editorial Board has approached over the years have more than fulfilled their potential.

There have been challenges, though. The decision to introduce author photos was not universally popular amongst our contributors (librarians really are quite camera shy ...with some obvious exceptions) and some of our colleagues remain invisible.

There were also teething problems with our e-journal and on one story the grammar in our digital version went somewhat awry. I did receive a very nice email from one reader pointing out the errors. She questioned my grasp of the Queen’s English, ending ‘if English isn’t your first language, you really are doing very well.’

Soon after that we employed a copyeditor.

We still have the same copyeditor (Maureen) and – I am glad to say – we still have largely the same Editorial Board. I am especially pleased to announce that long-serving Board member Valerie Stevenson will be taking over as Editor from issue 51. Valerie has penned many articles over the years and procured many more. She has lots of exciting ideas how she will take *SCONUL Focus* forward ...but I’ll let her tell you more in future issues.

It just leaves me to thank SitMui, Gail and my Editorial Board(s), all our contributors (especially

my regulars, you know who you are) and all the readers, whose ranks I will now join.

Here's to the next fifty wonderful issues.

Antony

Antony Brewerton
Editor, *SCONUL Focus*