Editor's Foreword

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Since the highly successful publication Kidd, Tony and Rees-Jones, Lyndsay (Editors) (2000) The Serials Management Handbook: a practical guide to print and electronic serials management (Library Association Publishing, London. 1-85604-355-X), developments within the electronic information resources industry have continued apace with respect to both established and emerging e-formats and the technology and standards that underpin them. UKSG therefore felt it timely to publish a second edition to support the practical work of the professional working in this electronic environment.

International industry experts were commissioned to compile this new edition, which takes the form of e-chapters that collectively form an e-handbook covering the whole range of issues and challenges facing the e-resource industry.

In particular it was felt very fitting that this publication should be electronic only and it was therefore commissioned in the form of e-chapters to be published from 2006 onwards, with new chapters and updates added continually.

On behalf of UKSG, the editors would like to thank the authors for their contributions and commitment to producing this electronic handbook. The editors would also like to thank previous editors Jayne Burgess, Manchester Metropolitan University and Jill Taylor-Roe, Newcastle University for their input, Alison Whitehorn, UKSG Business Manager for proofreading and Hazel Woodward and Helen Henderson, editors of Serials, for their guidance and support.

Finally, it is very interesting to note that although the technology has changed the face of the serials world, should you get the chance to read the book by Davinson, D.E. (1964) Periodicals, a manual of practice for librarians (Grafton), you will see that the fundamentals of serials management have not changed so much – so it is encouraging to know that we must be doing something right.

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