# EDITORIAL
# SERIALS - desktop published (well almost!)

Hopefully members will be aware that it has been our intention for some time to up-grade the Group's Newsletter into a journal with effect from the beginning of this year. *Serials: the Journal of the United Kingdom Serials Group*, of which this is the first issue, is the result.

*Serials* will be published three times a year - March, July and November - and we hope to create a journal, with a mixture of articles and news items, which will appeal to all types of members of the Group, whether librarians, publishers, subscription agents, binders and all others having an interest in serials. In this issue we give a brief note on the breakdown of our members by type of organisation and you will see that close to 25% of members are non-libraries - our commercial colleagues.

Shortly after you receive this issue of *Serials*, the annual conference will be upon us. To avoid the past delays in publication of the conference papers, when they appeared as a single volume proceedings, we now plan to publish the papers in the next two or three issues of *Serials*, starting with the July number.

True to our status as a small serials publisher we are taking advantage of currently available desktop publishing software to enhance the appearance of our journal and readers may be interested in the systems we use:

Articles, news items, etc. are keyed by Anne Hillier into the Group's Amstrad PC1640 microcomputer (although articles on IBM compatible disks can be entered direct). Text is printed onto our Juki 6100 daisywheel printer for proofreading and then any subsequent amendments made to the master text (the editor, deputy editor and the Amstrad are at different locations). Final text is then transferred to disk, which is loaded onto the desktop publishing system at Swets. This is the Xerox Ventura Publishing package (Version 2) running on an Olivetti M24 PC. At this point we are able to decide on format and appearance generally

- typesize and style, use of columns, lines, boxes, etc. Once we are happy, prints are taken on a Hewlett Packard Laserjet Series II laser printer, which form the masters for the printing company we use. Final order of pages to incorporate artwork for advertisements is decided at this stage and any photographs slotted in. Hopefully as we become more experienced we shall be able to make even fuller use of the potential of the desktop software.

One thing that has not changed with the introduction of *Serials* is the extent of voluntary assistance and support we receive and our thanks are owed to a number of people and organisations in this respect. Whilst we are attempting to create a professional "serials" journal, it is worth remembering that those people involved with *Serials* and the U.K. Serials Group are working on a voluntary unpaid basis. Thanks are owed to Brian Cox of Pergamon Press for the layout and artwork of our cover; to Swets for the production of the journal; and to Blackwell's for assistance in mailing. I should also like to thank Elizabeth Andrews, Deputy Editor, members of the Editorial Advisory Board and our authors for their contributions and assistance. A special thanks also to Anne Hillier who enters most of the text and handles just about all the administration of the journal (even though she is our paid 'volunteer'!).

Finally there are two requests I would ask of members:

- please send us your contributions, letters, ideas for articles,etc.

- and please complete and return the loose questionnaire enclosed with this issue (if we remembered to put it in) giving your views on what you want from *Serials*.

See you at Leeds.
*Albert Prior*
*Editor*