

Editorial

Readers will be interested to note that, after what seems a long gestation period, the Library and Information Commission is now being established. (LIRG was one of the many organizations which responded to the Consultative Document, issued in February 1994). Following the appointments of Matthew Evans (Chairman of Faber publishers) as Chair and of Stuart Brewer (City Librarian and Arts Officer of Newcastle upon Tyne) as Executive Secretary, staff of the British Library were invited to apply for the two posts of Adviser and Senior Adviser. It had been anticipated that, because of the work the Commission will undertake, at least one person currently attached to the British Library Research and Development Department would be appointed, but in the event two BLRDD applicants were successful. Rosalind Johnson will be the Adviser and I will be Senior Adviser. The new body will be important for LIRG members and anyone interested in LIS research, since one of its responsibilities will be devising the LIS research strategy for the UK. Amongst other responsibilities it also has an international, particularly European role, in that it will take over from BLRDD the secretariat of the UK National Focal Point for the European Commission's Libraries Programme.

It is certainly a time of change at Sheraton Street, since BLRDD's new director, Nigel Macartney, has recently taken up post and is forging ahead with taking BLRDD into a new era.

As usual in the summer issue of LIRN, there are the reports of both the Chairman and Treasurer, which were presented at the AGM in March. Besides a healthy crop of book reviews there is a report by Belinda Torlot on her project to create a German language Hypercard database (runner up in the most recent T C Farries/LIRG postgraduate student prize) and reports on three BLRDD funded projects in the topical areas of meeting information needs of particular groups (in this case academic Heads of Departments), Continuing Professional Development, and quality. Finally, we have a contribution from the University of Central England on effective questionnaire design. Many LIRN readers may think that they already know all there is to know on this topic so crucial to many research projects, but regular recipients of questionnaires may disagree. There are frequent complaints about poorly designed questionnaires, with badly phrased and ambiguous questions within, indicating that there is still much more to be learned.

In case you have been thinking that LIRG has gone quiet on the Better by far conference, we hope to reproduce some of these papers in the next issue of LIRN.

Another reminder that I am always pleased to receive suitable items for inclusion in LIRN, so please contact me if you have any ideas.

Roslyn Cotton
Editor
LIRG News