

## Editor's Notes

Again a warm welcome to the IASSIST Quarterly - IQ vol. 26 issue 4. Three articles are presented in this issue.

Back at the IASSIST 2002 conference in Storrs, CT in the session "The New Frontier for Archives" Kevin Schürer from the UK data archive in Essex presented the project on "Edwardians Online". The paper by Emma J. Barker and Louise Corti is presented now in the IQ. The Qualitative Data Service at the archive has released a pilot, web-based, multimedia resource. We are far from the rows and columns of numbers normally associated with data archives and the article also gives you a presentation of the "Qualidata" unit. The data collection consist of interviews that lasted up to four hours and transcribed to 80 typed pages. It is surprising that the qualitative methods are combined with great numbers. You will find that there in the 1970'ies were carried out 444 qualitative interviews of this kind! You can learn more about the project in the article, and obviously you can have a look at the web-site.

In the next article – also from a data archive - Anne Sophie Fink gives us the story about "A Danish Research Portal on the Internet". The article is about the web presence of the Danish data archive structured around data production, data archiving and data usage. The archive is viewed not only as a collector and disseminator of data but as an enabler of flows of communication (and data) among the actors. Basically the broader perspective should permit users to suggest and add content to the web site. The paper was presented at the Storrs IASSIST conference and was in line with the conference theme of "accelerating access". Anne Sophie Fink presented the article in the session called "Research Portals".

From the same 2002-conference and from the same session Jessica Eustace from the University of Manchester presents the paper "Reaching your end-user with MIMAS". The full session title was called "Research Portals, or the Truth is Out There" which calls for agents – intelligent ones! - as the portal should be a facility to provide one-stop-shop for users' needs in e-journals, bibliographic databases and other research support facilities. The paper highlights how the cross-disciplinary services at MIMAS can support the creation of a research paper. The paper describes services like the Archives Hub and COPAC that brings access to data and merged catalogues, as well as the citation indexes in the Web of Science and the access to journals through the JSTOR facility. In the article Jessica Eustace use the stages of the research paper (introduction, literature review, etc.) to illustrate how researchers make use of the services.

An obvious follow-up of these articles that describes facilities on the web for support of researchers will be

an evaluation of these sites and portals. I will be looking forward to receiving articles for the IQ describing methodologies for the evaluation as well as empirical results of evaluation by stakeholders.

Access IASSIST at the web on [www.IASSISTdata.org](http://www.IASSISTdata.org).

Papers for the IASSIST Quarterly are most welcome. Please contact the editor ([kbr@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:kbr@sam.sdu.dk)) about submissions.

Karsten Boye Rasmussen, August 2003