

Editorial

At the time of going to press for the last issue I was not to know about the change of Minister at the Department of National Heritage and therefore "jumped the gun" concerning the announcement of the new Commission for libraries. Now that Stephen Dorrell has had time to settle into the job we understand that an announcement is now imminent and it should have happened by the time you read this. It is still not clear how certain potential difficulties will be resolved, such as cooperation with other Government departments and liaison between the new body and the Scottish and Welsh Offices. In **Viewpoint** Ian Malley discusses the Commission in relation to local cooperation as exemplified by the Library and Information Plans (LIPs).

Also in this issue we have two products of LIRG prizes - Lizzie Davenport on accounting practice and networked services in universities (LIRG/Elsevier Award) and Krista Roberts on quality assurance in a college library (T C Farries/LIRG Undergraduate Prize). Research reports for this issue are completed by contributions from Deborah Goodall, LIRG Secretary, on library resources for franchised courses, and from Antje Cockrill, a PhD student at Aberystwyth, on marketing management in British and German university libraries.

Quality, school library services and evaluation are the "flavours of the month" for book reviews, including some useful comparative reviews from Steve Morgan.

At this point I would like to record my thanks to Monica Blake, who is now stepping down as Reviews Editor. Monica has worked hard over the years to ensure that a steady supply of interesting reviews reaches me in time for each issue. Eric Davies, of Loughborough University, is now taking over, so if anyone would like to contribute suitable material for review please send it to Eric at the Department of Information and Library Studies, LUT, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU (Tel 0509 223052).

Roslyn Cotton
Editor