

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the non-member version of Issue 168 of *ASA News*¹.

News from the ASA

ASA and STM

A reciprocal membership has been agreed between the ASA and [STM](#), the International Association of STM members. This arrangement reflects common goals, opportunities and challenges shared by the memberships of the two organisations and brings mutual benefits to both organisations including complimentary registration for one staff member from each organisation to attend the respective annual meetings. Our thanks to colleagues at STM. Similar bi-lateral agreements are planned, news to follow in due course.

News from ASA Members

Maruzen News

Majority shares in leading Japanese subscription agent and long-term ASA member Maruzen have been acquired by the Dai Nippon Printing Company (DNP). Colleagues at Maruzen are preparing a statement (to be circulated amongst ASA members in due course).

EBSCO announce further Open Days

EBSCO has announced it will continue its series of Open Days into November 2009, in major cities across Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. These EBSCO-sponsored events are targeted at everyone involved in the information supply chain – especially library directors, librarians, academic information managers, e-resources managers, serials and e-books acquisition specialists and corporate information professionals. The Open Day series also provides publishers excellent exhibitor opportunities in which to share their e-content product information with attendees. SAGE Publications, Ltd. and Project MUSE® have confirmed they will exhibit during various Open Days (click [here](#) for a list of cities and dates, and for further details).

Swets on the road in China

CEPIEC and Swets have announced the start of the 4th China Roadshow. Sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education and organised by CEPIEC and Swets, the China Roadshow showcases international publishers to libraries throughout the country. The 2009 China Roadshow travels to the cities of Beijing, Taiyuan, Chongqing and Hangzhou, where librarians and academics can see journals and hold discussions with publishers and other vendors.

Industry News Related to the Economy

(May 21st) 'Time Higher' reports 40% of university libraries plan cuts to book and journal purchases next year

(Quoted from THE online): "Times Higher Education reported in January that the drop in the pound's value was having a "crippling effect" on the budgets of UK university libraries, which faced huge increases in subscriptions costs for research journals from the US and elsewhere in Europe. Now a new

¹ This edition is an edited version of *ASA News*, made available to non-members of the ASA.

survey of 38 university libraries conducted by the UK Research Information Network (RIN) reveals just how serious the situation is.

Preliminary findings presented to Times Higher Education show that although the current academic year has been "financially challenging", it is in 2009-10 that the pinch will really be felt. The survey shows that nearly **40 per cent** of libraries plan cuts to books and serial purchases from next year. One in five plans to cancel one or more so-called big deals with publishing houses to access bundles of journals online."

([full story](#)).

NERL Consortium warns publishers of significant budget cuts

An open letter from the NERL Consortium² dated 20th April 2009 warns publishers about significant budget cuts planned for members of the NERL consortium over the next 2 years . The letter gives Yale University as an example and cites reductions in the collections budget for FY 2009-2010 in the order of 10%, with a likely additional 5% already mandated for 2010-2011. The letter indicates that institutions facing the hardest choices will be those that have been beneficiaries of important university endowments. Average actual dollar cuts across the NERL consortium are in the range of 4-5% which the authors currently estimate will have an impact on overall buying power (given normal price increases) of around 8-10%. (For more details, click [here](#)).

Global economic downturn necessitates cutbacks at ACS

The American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society, has announced a package of cost-saving measures in light of the present economic downturn. Investment losses, declining ad revenues and falling institutional print subscriptions to its journals and other publications have forced a 3% cut in its workforce and further reductions to operating expenses and retiree medical benefits ([full details](#)).

ASM Journals Announce Online Price Freeze for 2010 Subscription Year

Online subscription prices for the 9 research journals and 2 review journals published by the American Society for Microbiology will not increase in the 2010 subscription year. The pricing freeze applies to all ASM online journals and bundles, including the All-Il, Basic, and Clinical packages. The base price increase for 2010 print subscriptions is a nominal 4% ([more about ASM](#)).

0% Increase on Subscription rates for 2010 from The Company of Biologists

Publisher of the scientific journals *Development*, *Disease Models & Mechanisms*, *Journal of Cell Science* and *The Journal of Experimental Biology*, have announced their intention not to increase pricing for 2010 which they say "reflects our commitment to the community we serve in these difficult financial times." ([more](#) about the Community of Biologists).

Pricing policies for endocrinology and reproduction society journals

The publisher of the endocrinology and reproduction society journals recently announced they are responding to the calls from librarians for flexibility and restraint on price rises by keeping price rises to an absolute minimum for 2010; price freezing on selected individual titles for libraries that can commit to continuing to subscribe for 2010-12 (including opt out clauses if the library's circumstances change); providing small, focused tailored packages at greatly reduced prices; providing an online archive to institutional subscribers at little or no extra cost (depending on the title).

The publisher also made the following plea to librarians: "We realise that cancelling titles from small learned societies may be an easy option, but in the longer term cancelling such journals, which are often high impact and cost-effective, is likely just to exacerbate libraries' budget problems. We hope that we can rely on you to respond to our concerns as we have responded to yours."

²North East Research Libraries ([website](#))

2010 Price Freeze from OECD

OECD Publishing has frozen prices for 2010. This applies to the full range of SourceOECD products, as well as OECD Journals and Statistical Databases, irrespective of format - online-only or online-and-archive (print/CD/DVD) (more about [OECD Publishing](#)).

Duke freezes eBook prices for 2010

Duke University Press has announced the 2010 pricing of the e-Duke Books Scholarly Collection will not increase from 2009 rates. The collection provides online access to at least 100 new scholarly books published by Duke University Press in the humanities and social sciences in a calendar year ([more information](#)).

Other Industry News & Announcements

No news this month.

People

Swets appoints new Chief Executive Officer

Subscription services provider Swets has announced the appointment of Eduard Cohen as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective June 1, 2009. Prior to his appointment to Swets, Eduard has held several board level marketing and sales positions in the publishing and pharmaceutical industry most notably at Elsevier where he was the MD of the Science and Technology Division ([full details](#)).

Key Meetings

- **2009 SSP 31st Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD**
27th -29th May 2009, Baltimore, USA. Full details available ([details](#)).
- **3rd Bloomsbury Conference on Electronic Publishing**
University College London, UK, 25-26 June 2009 ([details](#))
- **NASIG 2009**
June 4th-7th 2009, Asheville, North Caroline, USA ([details](#))
- **IFLA World Library and Information Congress**
23-27 August 2009, Milan, Italy ([details](#))
- **ALPSP International Conference**
9-11 September 2009, nr Oxford, UK ([details](#))
- **Frankfurt Bookfair**
14-18 October 2009, Frankfurt, Germany ([details](#))
- **Charleston Conference 2009**
4-7 November 2009, Charleston, South Carolina ([details](#))
- **London Online 2009**
1-3 December, Olympia Grand Hall, London ([details](#))

As always, please get in touch if you have items you would like included in a future edition of *ASA News*.
Best wishes

Sarah

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