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AJET is managed by a Committee comprising ASCILITE Executive nominees, the convenors or nominees from previous ascilite Conferences, and AJET's previous editors and current senior editorial staff. The 2009 Management Committee members are:

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 Professor Geoffrey Crisp, University of Adelaide, ASCILITE 2003 Convenor
 Dr Rob Phillips, Murdoch University, ASCILITE 2004 Convenor
 Professor Peter Goodyear, University of Sydney, ASCILITE 2006 Convenor
 Dr Dale Holt, Deakin University, ASCILITE 2008 Convenor
 Professor Ron Oliver, Edith Cowan University, AJET Editor 1997-2001
 Assoc Prof Catherine McLoughlin (Editor), Australian Catholic University
 Dr Roger Atkinson (Production Editor)

AJET's Editorial Board (see <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/about/editorial-board.html>) reflects the journal's commitment to academic excellence in educational technology and related areas of research and professional practice, our vision of an international journal with an Australasian regional emphasis, and our origins as a professional and learned society publication.



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Editorial 25(2)

Announcing AJET's new Editorial Board

In March 2009 the AJET Management Committee [1] agreed to proceed with the formation of a new Editorial Board, after considering an analysis of editorial board compositions and roles prepared by AJET's Editorial staff. We are now very pleased and proud to announce the inaugural Board, comprising the following members (see [2] for institutional affiliation and country details):

Baharuddin Aris	Peter Goodyear	Mike Keppell	Rob Phillips
Helen Carter	Cathy Gunn	Colin Latchem	Quek Choon Lang
Chen Chwen Jen	Barry Harper	Kar-Tin Lee	Thomas C. Reeves
Cheung Wing Sum	John G Hedberg	Catherine McLoughlin	Rod Sims
Gráinne Conole	Jan Herrington	Carmel McNaught	Alan Smith
Geoffrey Crisp	Tony Herrington	John O'Donoghue	Elizabeth Stacey
Iain Doherty	Dale M Holt	Ron Oliver	Gail Wilson
Mark Freeman	Gregor Kennedy	Meg O'Reilly	Allan H.K. Yuen

After reviewing the Editorial Board details published for a number of journals including BJET, C&E, ALT-J, JCAL, JETS, JTaTE and others [3], the Management Committee agreed to form a conventional Board, by invitation, initially with 32 members. In choosing a list of invitees, Committee considered academic and research leadership and distinction; significant previous connections with AJET and ascilite Conferences in one or more of the roles of author, reviewer, Conference keynote or organiser; links with and representation of countries that are prominent in AJET's vision of an Australasian regional emphasis; the inclusion of persons from a range of educational technology topic areas, educational sectors and institutional roles; and a modern view of gender balance. We thank our invitees very warmly, and report a 100% acceptance rate.

We envision the Board's primary role to be acting as an independent monitor of AJET's editorial standards, with particular reference to comparing AJET with similar international journals. The principal method for providing feedback to AJET's editorial staff and the Management Committee will be responding to an annual open ended questionnaire, although other avenues may be used. Board members may also be members of AJET's Review Panel [4], for which the contribution per reviewer per year is usually in the range 1-3 articles, and we would like members of the Board to be general ambassadors for AJET within their spheres of influence. Editorial Board appointments are honorary, are made by AJET's Management Committee for a period of five years, and renewals may be offered.



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Whilst we have been well aware of the benefits and advantages of an international Editorial Board for AJET, for example as noted in Editorial 23(4) in October 2007 [5], the most recent and blunt stimulus to proceed was due to the Australian Research Council's document *Tiers for the Australian Ranking of Journals*, dated 12 June 2008 [6]. In relation to editorial boards, the prescriptive excerpts from *Tiers* are:

- A* (top 5%) ... the editorial board would be dominated by field leaders, including many from top institutions.
- A (next 15%) ... an editorial board which includes a reasonable fraction of well known researchers from top institutions.
- B (next 30%) ... editorial boards that have few leading researchers from top international institutions. [6]

The *Tiers* document gives Australian based journals such as AJET (a Tier "A" ranked journal, [7]) a compelling incentive to move towards an editorial board *dominated by field leaders, including many from top institutions*. However, the Australian Government's ARC, the proponents for *Tiers for the Australian Ranking of Journals*, is not the only constituency to which AJET is linked, and obliged to respond to. The briefing paper for AJET's Management Committee recognised that there are other constituencies, or needs, or principles, to which AJET should respond, including some or all of those listed below, which are in addition to the ideals of academic and research excellence in educational technology and related fields [8]:

1. AJET is an international journal with an *Australasian regional emphasis*. How can AJET form a board which can help to address the under-representation of the non-Western, non-native English speaking countries, at least within the scope of our regional emphasis?
2. AJET's board should be a reasonable reflection of the *range of educational technology topics*, sectors of education, kinds of research methodologies and perspectives, etc, included in AJET's recent volumes. AJET seeks to present an emphasis upon research that applies or relates well to the day to day activities of front line academics, whether they be discipline based subject experts, or educational designers and other support persons in the team. The perspectives of these different persons within typical teams or groups need to be represented.
3. Journal review processes need to consider a *career development perspective*, from two directions. Firstly, AJET can follow the example provided by ascilite Conference review panels which provide specifically for the induction of novice reviewers, who will become the next generation of experienced reviewers. Secondly, AJET seeks to project a reputation for giving good formative advice that facilitates improvement and progress in an author's research career.
4. AJET and ascilite Conference proceedings have monitored and published data on *gender balance*, to help ensure that reviewer and author populations are a fair representation of the composition of the population of practitioners. The same attention to gender balance should be applied to an editorial board.
5. A journal's editorial board should receive an input from *office bearers* or other designated representatives of the society that publishes it. [8]

Of course the weights assigned to each constituency or need may vary quite widely, and may be quite subjective or even idiosyncratic, but in giving this list we can show that we have at least tried to represent the purposes underlying our initiation of the new editorial board a little less superficially than the *Tiers* quotes given above.



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The point was expressed succinctly by Peter Goodyear in the email discussion [9]:

I think it's sensible to be influenced by the ARC/ERA criteria for 'top journals', but I don't think one needs to be *driven* by them.....

As an editor of 15 years, I'd be tempted to say that the primary function of the editorial board is to work directly on the improvement of the journal and its profile.... I *would* expect them to be advocates for the journal, e.g. in persuading people presenting good stuff at conferences to write something up for the journal, developing ideas for special issues, etc....

So I think I'm saying - be driven by the (internal) needs of the journal rather than by the machinations of research assessment. [9]



"In dreams begins responsibility":
Choices, evidence, and change

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AJET's review process: 2008 outcomes

Table 1 shows progress since our last report on AJET's review process, dated 23 May 2008 and presented in Editorial 24(3) [10]. After a difficult period due to review and publishing commitments to *ascilite Melbourne 2008* [11] and the reduced availability of reviewers during the traditional holidays period, we regret that we are a little outside our desired benchmark of three months maximum for AJET's review process.

Table 1: Article review outcomes AJET 2003-2009

Year of receipt	No. rec'd	No. rejected editorially (b)	No. reject ext review (b)	No. with-drawn (c)	No. pending	No. accept(d)	No. published	% accepted (e)
2003	61	34	14	0	0	13	24	21.3%
2004	97	51	13	2	0	31	21	32.0%
2005	91	47	9	5	0	30	30	33.0%
2006	100	59	9	3	0	29	28	29.0%
2007	119	67	14	4	0	34	30	28.6%
2008	127	71	20	1	0	35	42	27.6%
2009(a)	60	5	0	1	54	5(a)	5	-

- Data for 2009 in columns 2-8 is at 4 May 2009. The 5 acceptances to date are the Outstanding Paper Award recipients from *ascilite Melbourne 2008* [12].
- Some of the rejected articles may appear again as receivals in a subsequent year. The reasons for counting these instances as rejections are to enable a clearer cut off for each year's outcomes, and to align data collection with the editorial advice, used in a significant proportion of cases, 'Reject. Invite resubmission of a revised or expanded work for a new review process'.
- Withdrawn means withdrawn at the request of the authors.
- The number of articles accepted from a particular year's receivals does not correspond to the number published in each year, owing to time taken for review and revisions, and fluctuations in the speed of these processes.
- % accepted is calculated from column 2 (No. rec'd) and column 7 (No. accepted).

Whilst it does not diminish our concern about sustaining the benchmark of three months maximum for AJET's review process, we do note occasional examples of longer times. Examples that we know about are "occasional", because in general journal editorial staff and authors seem to avoid discussion of the problem. Here is one example, written by Lisa Robins [13], noted recently in relation to a brief

investigation (by Roger Atkinson) that touched upon "doctorate by publication" or "PhD by publication" in the context of "E-theses" [14]:

The need to fast-track publishing of highly context-specific research findings is further emphasised by the lengthy publication timelines shown in Figure 1--which ranged from 199 to 469 days, and averaged 334 days, from submission to publication for the six research articles published at the time of writing this article. [13]

The word "lengthy" is a polite and restrained understatement. An average of 334 days is not "fast track", it is more like "appallingly excessive"!

Roger Atkinson and Catherine McLoughlin
AJET Production Editor and AJET Editor

Endnotes

1. AJET Management Committee.
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/about/about.html#management>
2. AJET Editorial Board. <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/about/editorial-board.html>
3. The selection of journals for analysis of editorial boards was based mainly upon SORTI (2007). Education journals listed alphabetically showing QScore and Area.
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/sorti/files/QScore_Nov_2007.pdf (Area 11, educational technology, computing and ICT). However, we also examined *Higher Education Research and Development* and *Distance Education*, these these journal representing "kindred societies" for ascilite. For acronyms and other references, see [7].
4. AJET Review Panel. <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/about/rev-panel-current.html>
5. AJET Editorial 23(4). Idle Moment No. 23: Education journal banding study.
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet23/editorial23-4.html>
6. ARC (Australian Research Council) (2008). *Tiers for the Australian Ranking of Journals*.
http://www.arc.gov.au/era/tiers_ranking.htm
7. AJET Editorial 24(4). *Blood, sweat and four tiers* revisited (Table 1, Notes c.).
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet24/editorial24-4.html>. AJET's draft ranking June 2008 is Tier A. For subsequent developments, see
http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/media_12June08.htm and
http://www.arc.gov.au/era/finalising_ranking.htm
8. AJET. Towards an editorial board for AJET (confidential briefing file 'edit-bd-surv09-v2.doc' for the Management Committee, 15 March 2009).
9. Professor Peter Goodyear. Email to AJET Management Committee, 9 Mar 2009.
10. AJET Editorial 24(3). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet24/editorial24-3.html>
11. *Hello! Where are you in the landscape of educational technology? Proceedings ascilite Melbourne 2008*. <http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/melbourne08/procs/>
12. For details of the Outstanding Paper Awards made at *ascilite Melbourne 2008*, see AJET Editorial 25(1). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet25/editorial25-1.html>
13. Robins, L. M. & Kanowski, P. J. (2008). PhD by publication: A student's perspective. *Journal of Research Practice*, 4(2). <http://www.jrp.icaap.org/index.php/jrp/article/view/136/154>
14. Atkinson, R. J. (2009). E-theses: Will online change the thesis tradition? *HERDSA News*, 31(1). <http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/atkinson-mcbeath/roger/pubs/herdsa-newslet31-1.html>



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