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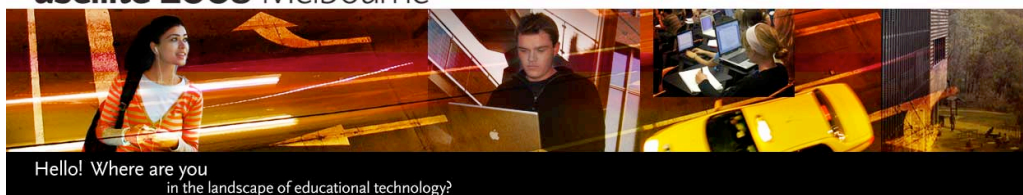
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The *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology* (AJET) is a refereed research journal published four times per year by the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ascilite). AJET retired its printed version (ISSN 1449-3098) at the end of Volume 23, 2007, and from Volume 24, 2008, the journal is open access, online only (ISSN 1449-5554), and does not have paid subscriptions.

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For editorial inquiries, contact the Editor, Associate Professor Catherine McLoughlin, School of Education (ACT), Australian Catholic University, PO Box 256, Dickson ACT 2602, Australia. Email: [C.McLoughlin@signadou.acu.edu.au](mailto:C.McLoughlin@signadou.acu.edu.au), Tel: +61 2 6209 1100 Fax +61 2 6209 1185.

For review process, production, website and business matters, contact the Production Editor, Dr Roger Atkinson, 5/202 Coode Street, Como WA 6152, Australia. Email: [rjatkinson@bigpond.com](mailto:rjatkinson@bigpond.com), Tel: +61 8 9367 1133. Desktop publishing (PDF versions) and HTML by Roger Atkinson.

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## Editorial

### AJET's home page access counter passes 200,000

In AJET Editorial 19(1), 2003, we noted that "At some time during Thursday 6 February 2003, the hit counter on AJET's home page passed 100000" [1]. We are pleased to record that at some time during the evening of Sunday 23 March 2008, the home page access counter passed 200,000. During the first four years of records (1997-2000) the home page access counter increment averaged about 34 per day and currently (24 March to 9 May 2008) averages 85 per day.

### AJET's review process: 2008 update

Table 1 shows progress since our last report on AJET's review process, dated 9 January 2008 and presented in Editorial 24(1) [2]. We are near to attaining our desired benchmark of three months maximum for AJET's review process, after a long recovery from a period which included many four month times, and some five and six month times. Here is a tart and wholly justified reminder to us from one prospective author, who recently received AJET rejection advice that included one of our standard sentences apologising for delays:

Thanks for the update. I am glad to hear you are addressing issues in the review process. A six month turn around time does make it challenging to address deficiencies and resubmit or submit to another journal as the study becomes more and more outdated. [3]

Table 1: Article review outcomes AJET 2003-2008

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(a)	49	11	0	0	35	3	24	-

- Data in columns 2-8 is at 23 May 2008.
- 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).

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## IM 29: More on databases

The heading for this Idle Moment is the same as for IM 21, published last year in Editorial 23(3) [4], because the report is essentially the same. Once again AJET is not wanted for Elsevier's database products [5]:

Subject: Outcome Elsevier Database Evaluation 2008  
 Date: Tue, 15 Apr 2008 15:14:01 +0200  
 From: "BD Source Collection Management" <bd-scm@elsevier.com>  
 To: <rjatkinson@bigpond.com>

Re: Australasian Journal of Educational Technology

Dear Dr. Roger Atkinson, Production Editor,

Thank you for suggesting the above title for inclusion in one or more of our databases. The title has been evaluated for Scopus but will be covered by none of our databases.

Although the publication has been examined with interest by our Journals' Advisory Committee, and there can be no doubt that your journal represents a valuable contribution in its field, our present coverage policy prevents us from acquiring further publications this year within this subject area. The title will be reevaluated for Scopus in 2009.

We apologise for not having been able to contact you earlier regarding the outcome of our evaluation.

Thank you again for your interest in our bibliographic databases.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jaqui Mason,  
 General Manager BD Operations  
 bd-scm@elsevier.com

Coincidentally, the rejection advice concerning *Scopus* [6] arrived at about the same time as a letter [7] (a traditional hardcopy letter) arrived from Thomson Scientific asking us to select an option for delivery of AJET, commencing with volume 23, 2007, to initiate their coverage, which we noted in Editorial 23(2) [8]. Thus we were able to provide a helpful reply to Elsevier's Dr Mason [9]:

The 2009 evaluation of Australasian Journal of Educational Technology that you refer to may be assisted by knowing that Thomson Scientific have included AJET for indexing and abstracting in their products, Social Sciences Citation Index, Social Scisearch and Journal Citation Reports/Social Sciences Edition, commencing with Vol 23(1), 2007. [9]



ALT-C 2008: *Rethinking the Digital Divide*  
 Leeds, UK, 9-11 September 2008  
<http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2008/>

**IM 30: HERD, DE and AJET rates - end of series**

The 1997-2007 versions of Figures 1 and 2 appeared in AJET Editorial 23(1), *IM No. 15: HERD, DE and AJET rates revisited*. Now that AJET has bottomed out, it's time to say farewell to the annual checkup and we will change it to a triennial review [10].

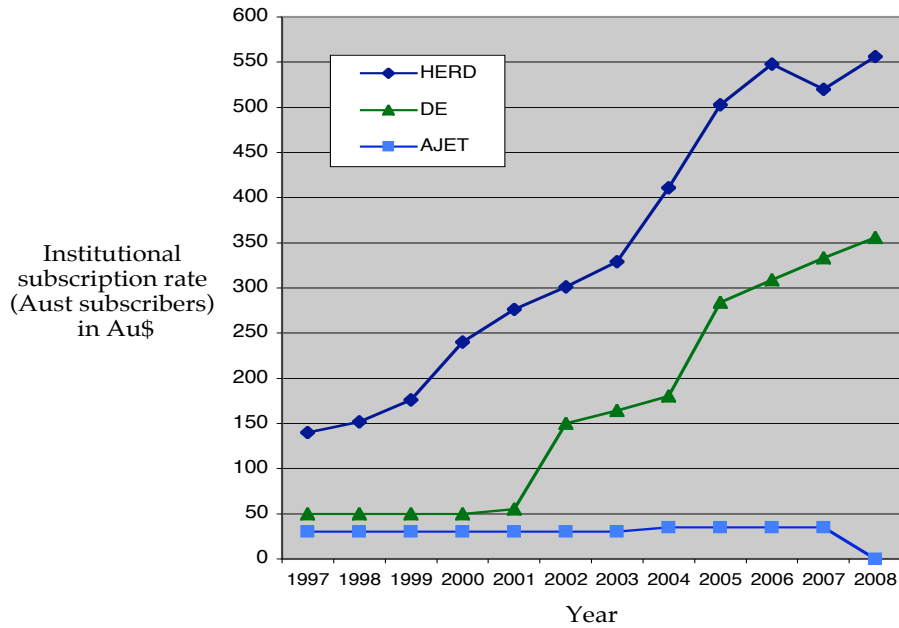


Figure 1: Institutional subscription rates, 1997-2008 (GST not included)

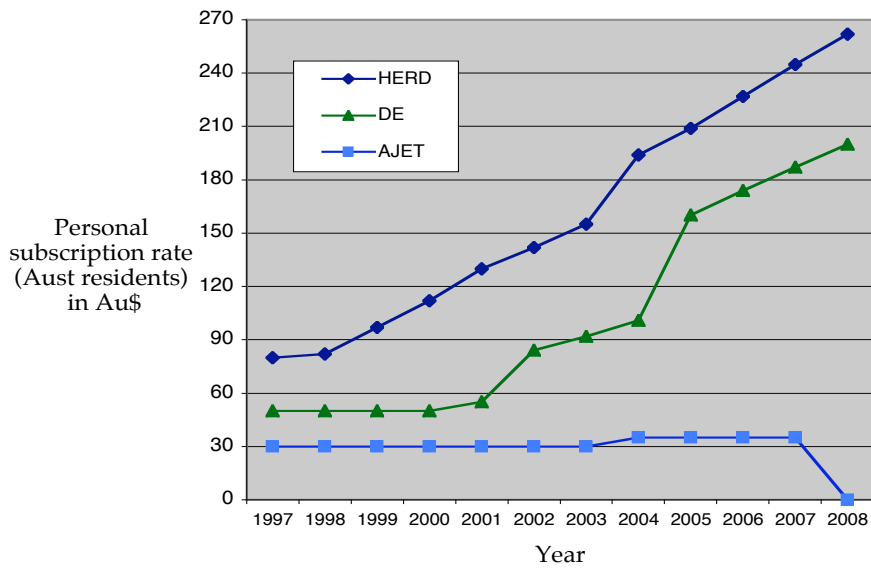


Figure 2: Personal subscription rates, 1997-2008 (GST not included)

Data sources: Rates quoted in printed copies of the journals and the publisher's website (GST not included). Prices include Internet access from an institutional local area network in the cases of HERD and DE institutional subscriptions (from 2008, AJET is open access, online only, no paid subscriptions).

HERD *Higher Education Research and Development*.  
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/07294360.asp>  
 DE *Distance Education*.  
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/01587919.asp>  
 AJET *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*.  
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/>



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### IM 31: International Education Journal - a brief case study

This Idle Moment is related to ANZCIES [11], a professional society whose 36th annual conference is mentioned elsewhere in his editorial. ANZCIES have created an opportunity (or an excuse!) for a brief case study concerning the *International Education Journal* [12]. Recently it became the *International Education Journal: Comparative Perspectives* [13] following a "migration" from the Flinders Institute for International Education and Shannon Research Press to ANZCIES. It is an interesting case because the "migration" was accompanied by policy changes that are generally in opposite directions to changes made recently by AJET, especially those announced in Editorial 24(1) [2]. Table 2 provides a brief summary.

Table 2: Comparing recent policy changes for IEJ and AJET [a]

Item	IEJ to IEJ: CP changes 2007 to 2008		AJET changes 2007 to 2008	
Printed version	No print, online only	Print first, online later (i.e. an unspecified embargo period)	Print and online (with 3 month embargo)	No print, online only
Open access	Yes.	Partial (not to DOAJ standard; listing lost)	Partial (not to DOAJ standard)	Yes (DOAJ listing regained)
Subscriptions	No.	Yes (Au\$60 individuals, Au\$250 institutions)	Yes (Au\$35 [c])	No.
Timely issues	Yes.	Uncertain? [b]	Yes.	Yes.
No. of issues/yr	Increasing	Decreasing? [b]	Static	Increasing
Review process promptness	(no information)	(no information available)	Becoming problematic [d]	Improving (time saving from print retirement)
Copyright owners	Authors	Authors retain limited rights, not full ownership	Authors	Authors

- Notes:
- Sources: Websites for IEJ [12], IEJ:CP [13], AJET and DOAJ [14]
  - Website indicates no issues published for 2008, to date [viewed 22 May 2008]
  - For both members and institutions (Au\$45 for overseas institutions). A proposal to increase rates in 2008 was withdrawn in favour of print retirement.
  - Currently AJET is recording four months maximum for the review process for 2008 submissions. Our recovery from the poorer picture which prevailed with 2007 submissions is being helped by time savings due to print retirement.



The new direction for IEJ: CP, as summarised briefly in Table 2, contrasts sharply with the policy and strategies for IEJ, in particular as discussed in detail by John Keeves, IEJ's Chief Editor, and Katherine Dix, Managing Director of Shannon Research Press, less than one year before the "migration" to ANZCIES. In a notable editorial for IEJ 7(7), 2006, titled *Back to the future* [15], Keeves and Dix outlined key principles for IEJ, including their rationale for open access, online only publication:

... a concern for work in education and for research into educational issues in developing countries, particularly, but not exclusively, in the Asia-Pacific Region has led to the establishment of a firmly held policy not to charge for the publication of articles, or for the submission of articles, or for access to the journal on-line, and not to market hard-copy annual or issue based copies of the journal, even to libraries.[15, p.874]

Keeves and Dix expressed critical views about academic publishing activities:

Many journals not only require an exorbitant subscription fee to access articles but also charge authors a review fee, regardless of whether the article is published or not. This challenge is further compounded by the growing competition between authors to have their work published in a finite resource, in which there are only a small number of appropriate reputable journals with only a limited number of spaces.... [15, p.877]

... there is enormous pressure from above for researchers to have their work published. Yet the researcher is also faced with resistance from below in trying to get their work published. Often they receive knock-back after knock-back, either from publishing houses that reject the work on poor marketability, or from journals, because there just are not enough spaces and the standards are raised so high that unless you have 'Professor' in front of your name, you don't stand a chance. [15, p.877]

We have not found any published discussion about the reasons for IEJ's transfer to another publisher, or for the pronounced change in its publishing policies. However, we can surmise that the major issues were related to the "measures of success" that Keeves and Dix identified in their editorial. These included "the level of IEJ's web presence, the number of visitors, frequency of article intake [number of submissions], and the number of articles published" [15, p.880]. They presented histograms showing number of submissions and number of articles published, 1999-2006, observing that:

... in 2007 the intake of articles may top 300 submissions and the website will have been viewed by well over 150,000 people. [15, p.881]

Although the editors have had to put a cap on the number of published papers, due to the sheer workload involved, 2006 is one of the busiest years yet, with the publication of over 80 papers from around the world in seven issues. [15, p.881]

Very likely, we may surmise, the core of the problem was identified by two cryptic phrases in the preceding quotation, containing in a ten page article the only references to editorial workload problems: *put a cap on* and *the sheer workload*.



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atnassessment08/](http://www.unisa.edu.au/atnassessment08/)

Although, sadly in our view, the sharp change of direction for IEJ was less than a year in the future, John Keeves and Katherine Dix concluded their editorial with a very positive summative assessment:

The intention of this editorial is to present a model of practice that appears to be unique in the global research community. The success and effectiveness of a close-knit academic community, such as FUIIE, in partnership with an entity like SRP has shown to be, over the last eight years, a potent combination. The service and intrinsic value that such an undertaking provides not only to the immediate academic community and university, but also to the broader research community, are numerous. On these measures, this model of practice is a resounding success. [15, p.882]

The original IEJ website [12] remains, with advice about the address for the new IEJ:CP website by ANZCIES [13], and some poignant reminders such as a new heading, *IEJ as it was*, inserted by the "IEJ Past Online Editor". IEJ's advice to authors is still online, including, for example, this unusual, pertinent advice:

We all remember the first time we published, and that it can be intimidating sometimes. Accordingly, much of the information presented at IEJ is aimed at making the scholarly publishing process accessible to a wide audience...

True to our name, we believe in the value of authors from a wide range of nationalities, cultures and contexts. Although we only currently publish in the English language we encourage contributions from around the world, particularly from the Asian countries... Furthermore, we do not discriminate against authors from non-English speaking backgrounds. On the contrary, we offer an Editorial Service to improve poorly written papers. [12, 'Why write for us']

Roger Atkinson and Catherine McLoughlin  
AJET Production Editor and AJET Editor

## Endnotes

1. AJET Editorial 19(1). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet19/editorial19-1.html>
2. AJET Editorial 24(1). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet24/editorial24-1.html>
3. Email to AJET dated 13 May 2008. Quoted by permission.
4. AJET Editorial 23(3). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet23/editorial23-3.html>
5. Email from Elsevier to AJET, dated 15 April 2008.
6. *Scopus*. <http://info.scopus.com/overview/what/>
7. Letter from Thomson Scientific to AJET, dated 4 April 2008.
8. AJET Editorial 23(2). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet23/editorial23-2.html>
9. Email from AJET to Elsevier, dated 9 May 2008.
10. AJET Editorial 23(1). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet23/editorial23-1.html>
11. The Australian and New Zealand Comparative and International Education Society. <http://www.anzcies.org/>
12. *International Education Journal*. <http://iej.cjb.net/> [viewed 22 May 2008]
13. *International Education Journal: Comparative Perspectives*. <http://www.iejcomparative.org/> [viewed 22 May 2008]
14. *Directory of Open Access Journals*. [viewed 22 May 2008] <http://www.doaj.org/doi?func=subject&p=1&cpid=127>
15. Keeves, J. P. & Dix, K. L. (2006). Editorial: Back to the future. *International Education Journal*, 7(7), 873-882. <http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/education/iej/articles/v7n7/keeves/BEGIN.HTM>



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