



Contents

Editorial 28(7): AJET review process outcomes: 2011 data iii-vi

Tertiary sector

Designing, developing and implementing a software tool for scenario based learning 1083-1102
Geoff Norton, Mathew Taylor, Terry Stewart, Greg Blackburn, Audrey Jinks, Bahareh Razdar, Paul Holmes and Enrique Marastoni

The role of theory in learning technology evaluation research 1103-1118
Rob Phillips, Gregor Kennedy and Carmel McNaught

Towards motivation-based adaptation of difficulty in e-learning programs 1119-1135
Anke Endler, Günter Daniel Rey and Martin V. Butz

Self-efficacy and ICT integration into initial teacher education in Saudi Arabia: Matching policy with practice 1136-1151
Margaret Robertson and Abdulrahman Al-Zahrani

Implementing online question generation to foster reading comprehension 1152-1175
Hui-Chin Yeh and Pei-Yi Lai

Blended learning and curriculum renewal across three medical schools: The rheumatology module at the University of Otago 1176-1189
Simon Stebbings, Nasser Bagheri, Kellie Perrie, Phil Blyth and Jenny McDonald

Influence of gender and computer teaching efficacy on computer acceptance among Malaysian student teachers: An extended technology acceptance model 1190-1207
Kung-Teck Wong, Timothy Teo and Sharon Russo

Beyond lecture capture: What teaching staff want from web-based lecture technologies 1208-1220
Lisa Germany

Students' perceptions of using Facebook as an interactive learning resource at university 1221-1232
Christopher Irwin, Lauren Ball Ben Desbrow and Michael Leveritt

Does the use of technology make a difference in the geometric cognitive growth of pre-service mathematics teachers? 1233-1247
Gerrit Stols

Pre-service physical education teachers' technological pedagogical content knowledge, technology integration self-efficacy and instructional technology outcome expectations 1248-1265
Kivanc Semiz and Mustafa Levent Ince

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Editorial 28(7)

AJET review process outcomes: 2011 data

The last report on AJET's review process, published in AJET Editorial 27(4) [1], included data for 2011 until 31 July 2011. Table 1 below marks the near completion of review and publication processes for 2011 submissions.

Table 1: Article review outcomes AJET 2003-2011

Year of receipt	No. rec'd	No. rejected editorially (c)	No. reject ext review	No. with-drawn (d)	No. pending	No. accept(e)	No. publ-ished (f)	% accep-ted (g)
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	29	29.0%
2007	119	67	14	4	0	34	30	28.6%
2008	127	71	20	1	0	35	42	27.6%
2009	186	95	27	2	0	62	45	33.3%
2010	236	126	25	6	0	78	71	33.5%
2011(a)	389(b)	188	62	6	12(h)	121	86(i)	31.1%

- Data for 2011 in columns 2-8 is at 26 August 2012.
- Includes numbers received for four Special issues; details given in Table 2 below, including a note about two Special issues published in 2010.
- Some of the rejected articles may appear again as receivals later in the same year or 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 (column 8), owing to time taken for review and revisions, and fluctuations in the speed of these processes.
- The number published in a calendar year.
- % accepted is calculated from column 2 (No. rec'd) and column 7 (No. accepted). In the case of 2011, the acceptance rate may be subject to a minor variation depending upon the outcomes for 12 reviews that are pending.
- Of the 12 pending, 6 were post-24 Dec 2011 submissions which were placed in the OJS submission system for a new editorial team to attend to.
- For 2012, the number of articles published was 73 at 27 August 2012, all being derived from 2011 submissions. The number of articles to be published during the remainder of 2012 from the last of the 2011 submissions and from 2012 submissions has not been determined.



<http://www.ascilite.org.au/index.php?p=conference>

Table 2: Article review outcomes AJET 2011

Type (b)	No. rec'd	No. rejected editorially (c)	No. reject ext review	No. with-drawn (d)	No. pending	No. accept	% accepted (e)
Regular issue	311	170	40	4	12	85	27.3%
Special issue	78	18	22	2	0	36	46.2%
Total (a)	389(b)	188	62	6	12(h)	121	31.1%

- a. Data for 2011 in columns 2-7 is at 26 August 2012.
- b. Four Special issues were included in the 2011 numbers received. The Special issues were 27(5) and 27(8), published in 2011, and 28(3) and 28(6), published in 2012. In 2010 two special issues were published, 26(4) and 26(8). Special issue 26(8) was not included in the 2010 counts because it did not involve any editorial work, being a simple republication. Special issue 26(4) contributed 13 submissions, 3 rejected after external review, and 10 accepted (76.9%), to the 2010 counts, but as the numbers were relatively small, the count data has not been separated.
- c. See Notes for Table 1.
- d. See Notes for Table 1.
- e. All four Special issues reviewed in 2011 commenced the review process with submissions of extended abstracts as detailed in <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/about/special-issues/guidelines.html>. Details on the numbers of extended abstracts received and the numbers of invitations have not been included here, and the calculations are based on numbers of full papers received. Thus % acceptance figures are not directly comparable, as a 'preliminary elimination' was conducted for Special issues but not for regular issues.

In Editorial 27(4) [1], reference was made to "a 26% increase from 2009 to 2010, and prospectively a 21% increase from 2010 to 2011", in the number of submissions. Tables 1 and 2 show that the actual increase in submissions for regular issues was much larger than expected, being 32% (from 236 in 2010 to 311 in 2011). Thus, the load in conducting the review process was substantially larger than expected.

Turning to look at the other main component of editorial work, the increase in copy editing load for 2011 acceptances (including Special issues) was also much larger than expected (78 accepted from 2010 submissions, 121 accepted from 2011 submissions, a 55% increase). Put into a specific time frame, 51 articles were copy edited for AJET publication during January-August 2011, and 73 articles during January-August 2012 - a 43% increase in load.

The effort made in the last two years to keep up with the flow of acceptances during 2010-2012 shows up in Figure 1, which displays the number of pages published per year by seven leading educational technology journals. Apart from the 'catch up' changes for AJET, some easing of the growth spurt by *Computers & Education*, and a recent expansion by *Research in Learning Technology*, Figure 1 shows relatively little change from the trends displayed in the earlier versions of Figure 1, for 2001-2010 in Editorial 27(1) [2] and for 2001-2007 in Editorial 23(4) [3]. However, the addition of *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning* shows one leading journal that was not a participant in the 'growth spurt' marking the previous decade.



Auckland, 1-4 July 2013. <http://conference.hersda.org.au/2013/>

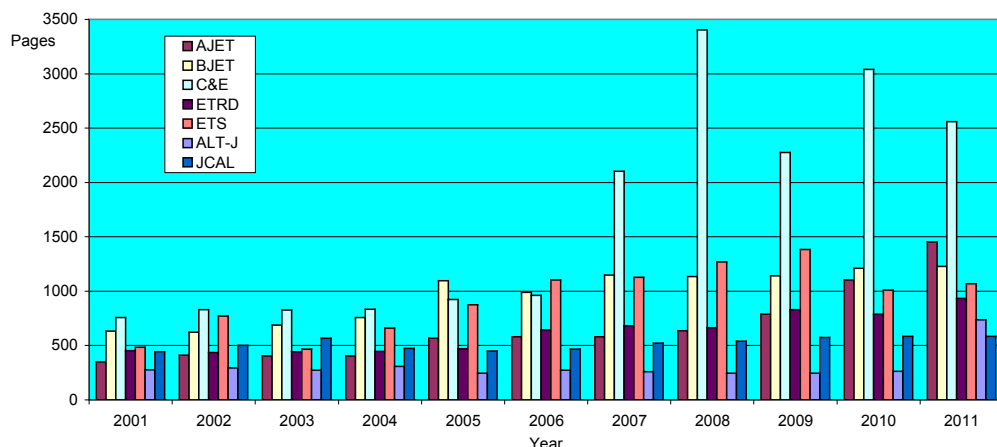


Figure 1: Number of pages per year for seven educational technology journals. Page counts are from each journal's website, excluding Roman numbered pages but including book reviews and other non-Roman page numbered content.

Journal	URL
Australasian Journal of Educational Technology	http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ (AJET; Tier B - see [4] for references to 'Tiers')
British Journal of Educational Technology	http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0007-1013 (BJET; Tier A)
Computers & Education	http://www.elsevier.com/locate/issn/03601315 (Tier A)
Educational Technology, Research and Development	http://www.springer.com/east/home/education/learning+%26+instruction?SGWID=5-40666-70-50612191-detailsPage=journal%2Fdescription (ETR&D; Tier A)
Educational Technology & Society	http://www.ifets.info/others/ (ET&S; Tier B)
ALT-J: Research in Learning Technology	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/09687769.asp (new name 2011: Research in Learning Technology) (RLT; Tier A)
Journal of Computer Assisted Learning	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2729 (Tier A)

Although pages per year data are not showing new trends, there is some scope for interesting new investigations into trends in the topics reported, research context, authors' countries and citation patterns. For example, Hsu, Ho, Tsai, Hwang, Chu, Wang and Chen (2012) [5] conducted content analyses of 2,976 technology-based learning articles that were published in BJET, C&E, ETR&D, ET&S and JCAL [see Notes below Figure 1 for acronyms] from 2000-2009. The articles were characterised into three main categories, research topic (using 12 sub-categories), research sample group (elementary school; junior and senior high school; higher education; etc) and learning domain (science; mathematics; arts and language; etc). This kind of study can be very labour intensive, owing to the large number of articles that have to be read in full by a researcher, but it could be extended readily into research questions that do not require a full reading of each article, such as analyses of country of origin and citation patterns. In particular, research into associations between journal submission patterns occurring for specific groups of authors and journal ranking schemes or bibliometrics could give interesting insights into academic publishing trends [6].

Roger Atkinson
 AJET Production Editor (retirement pending)

Endnotes

1. AJET Editorial 27(4), 2011. AJET review process outcomes: 2010 data.
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-4.html>
2. AJET Editorial 27(1), 2011. Revisiting the 'growth spurt' in educational technology journals.
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-1.html>
3. AJET Editorial 23(4), 2007. Idle Moment No. 24: Growth rates for some leading journals.
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet23/editorial23-4.html>
4. AJET Editorial 27(6), 2011. *Impact Factor* revisited: AJET ranking improved.
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-6.html>
5. Hsu, Y.-C., Ho, H. N. J., Tsai, C.-C., Hwang, G.-J., Chu, H.-C., Wang, C.-Y. & Chen, N.-S. (2012). Research trends in technology-based learning from 2000 to 2009: A content Analysis of publications in selected journals. *Educational Technology & Society*, 15 (2), 354–370.
http://www.ifets.info/journals/15_2/30.pdf
6. Findings from the Production Editor's current investigations into journal submission and reference citation patterns will appear elsewhere, not in AJET. Preprints will appear at <http://www.roger-atkinson.id.au/>



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Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education and Nanyang Technological University
Singapore, 26-30 November 2012. <http://www.isl.nie.edu.sg/icce2012/>



Sydney, 4-7 February 2013. <http://www.odlaasummit.org.au/>