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## Editorial 28(5)

### AJET's acceptance rate: Regional analysis updated for 2011

Figure 1 adds year 2011 provisional data to the regional analyses presented in Editorial 25(3) [1] and Editorial 27(4) [2]. In this version, the periods considered are 2003-08 (6 years) and 2009-11 (3 years), the main reason for aggregating the data in this way being the high variability in acceptance rates that can occur with instances of small numbers of submissions from a particular region or country. However, the purpose remains the same, namely informing authors, reviewers and readers generally "... for the purpose of benchmarking AJET's progress towards being an international journal with an Australasian emphasis." [2]. As indicated in Editorial 27(4) [2], the data "... suggests mixed progress towards a broader Australasian adoption of AJET as a highly ranked choice for submissions of articles."

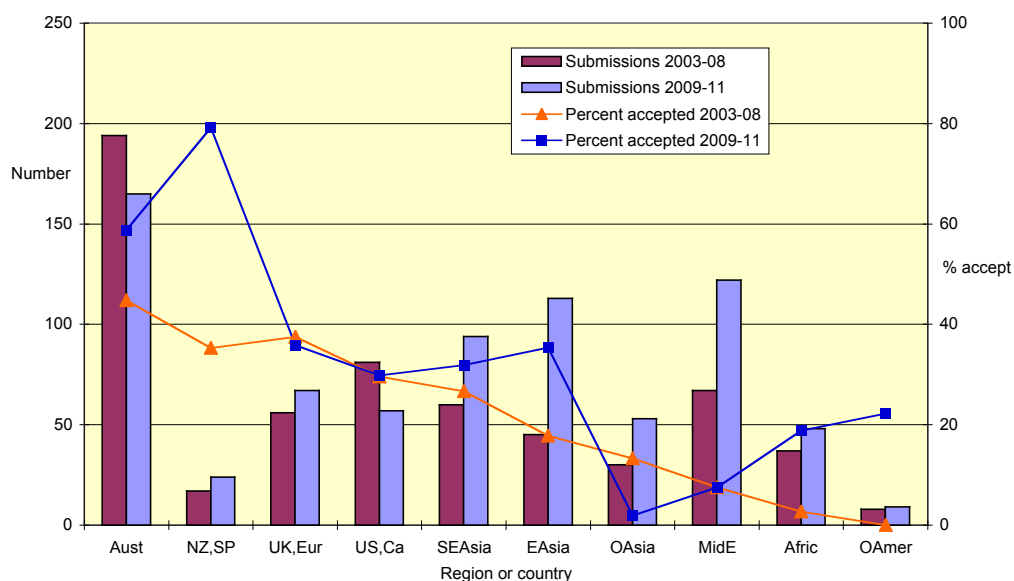


Figure 1: Total submissions and acceptance rates, years 2003-08 and 2009-11, by region or country



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

*Notes for Figure 1:* Aust is Australia only; NZ Sth Pacific includes Papua New Guinea; SE Asia includes Thailand, Philippines; East Asia includes Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea; Other Asia includes India, Bangladesh, Pakistan; Middle East includes Turkey, North Cyprus, Israel, Egypt; Africa includes Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritius; UK and Europe includes Eastern Europe, Russia, Cyprus, Georgia; Other America includes Mexico, Caribbean countries, Central and South America. Missing data for 2010: Country of origin data not available for 3 submissions, i.e. only 233 of the 236 submissions could be counted. Missing data for 2011: Country of origin data not available for 2 submissions. Review outcomes awaited for 10, and 6 submissions post-24 Dec 2011 were placed in the new review system. Calculations dated 22 July 2012. Total submissions for 2011 = 351; number of 2011 submissions in calculations for Figure 1 = 333 (acceptance rate 32.4%). The sequence for the horizontal axis was obtained from the 2003-08 percent acceptance data being arranged from highest to lowest (orange triangles line).

Another purpose for Figure 1 is to suggest some small scale but interesting, and potentially very informative, research into scholarly journal publishing. What are the main reasons for the large differences in the growth rates in numbers of AJET submissions, with Australia in particular being slow, and the Asian and the Middle Eastern regions being rapid, though with widely diverging acceptance rates?

Is the awful matter of "Tiers" continuing to depress the number of Australian submissions to AJET, notwithstanding the official abandonment of "Tiers" in 2011? [3], [4]? Could we contribute to an assessment of the impact of "Tiers" upon Australian edtech researchers and their choices of journals for submitting their work, by looking at "pre-Tiers" and "post-Tiers" submission and publication data? Were Australian researchers unduly (or perhaps "duly"! ) influenced by institutional directives about seeking publication in only A\*/A journals?

Why are the Asian and the Middle Eastern regions showing high rates of growth in number of submissions to AJET, and very likely to international academic journals generally? Another set of research questions may be grouped around this question. For example, what is the relative importance of factors such as rapid growth of universities in the emerging (or "non-emerging"! ) economies of Asian and Middle Eastern countries, and a trend towards English language journals as the most sought after, the most highly prized avenue for publishing the work of academic research aspirants?

AJET's reviewers and the Production Editor have undertaken very considerable amounts of honorary work in providing good formative advice to the authors of submissions that were not accepted for publication. No doubt similar efforts are being made by AJET's peer journals [5], but the "% accept" data in Figure 1 suggests that the rate of improvement for some regions is very slow. What are the main reasons for this disappointing observation? What improvements, if any, can journals such as AJET undertake to give better opportunities to authors from Asian and Middle Eastern countries that are under-represented in the international academic research literature?



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 Educational Computing Association of Western Australia  
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Is the concept of "better opportunities" appropriate, relevant and warranted, given that journals tend to place high importance upon selecting only the best research articles?

### **AJET's Google and Google Scholar presence returns to normal**

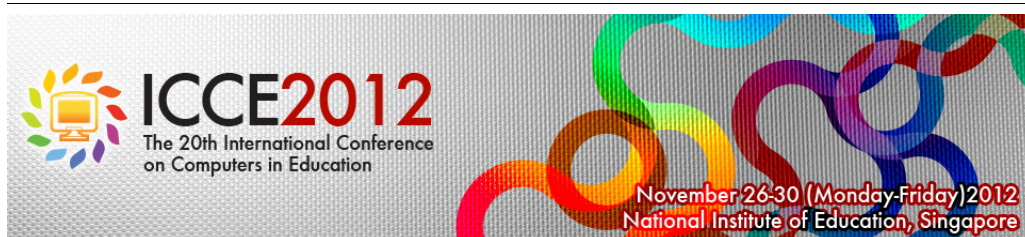
In AJET Editorial 28(4) [6] I advised that Google's search robot had been denied access to ascilite's website (and thus to AJET and ascilite Conference proceedings) during the period 13 December 2011 to 4 May 2012. Thankfully, the situation is now returning to normal, with nearly all titles of AJET articles being found at their AJET website addresses, in addition to being found at other addresses, such as ERIC [7] and institutional repositories. However, regular monitoring will be necessary and prudent, especially in view of the emergence of important new bibliometric services such as *Google Scholar Metrics* [6].

Roger Atkinson

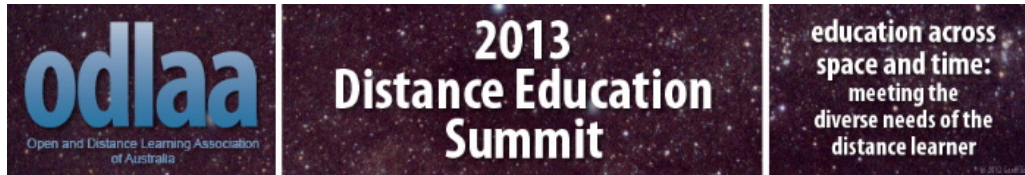
*AJET Production Editor (retirement pending)*

### **Endnotes**

1. AJET Editorial 25(3). AJET's acceptance rate: A regional analysis.  
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet25/editorial25-3.html>
2. AJET Editorial 27(4). AJET's acceptance rate: A regional analysis updated.  
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-4.html>
3. AJET Editorial 27(3). Dawn of a new ERA?  
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-3.html>
4. AJET Editorial 27(6). Draft ERA 2012 Journal List released.  
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-6.html>
5. For a list of AJET's peer journals, see AJET Editorial 27(6). *Impact Factor* revisited: AJET ranking improved. <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet27/editorial27-6.html>
6. AJET Editorial 28(4). Bibliometrics: Google's newest initiative.  
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet28/editorial28-4.html>
7. ERIC. <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>



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/>

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