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ascilite 2008 Melbourne



Hello! Where are you
in the landscape of educational technology?

30 Nov - 3 Dec 2008 at Deakin University Burwood Campus, Melbourne
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/melbourne08/>

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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Editorial

Where is AJET's *Impact Factor*?

Recently we responded as follows to an emailed query from a Singapore academic who is an AJET author and reviewer:

>I was going through the list of SSCI journal and did not find it.
>May I know if AJET is still considered SSCI?

In brief, I don't know! Have a look at Editorial 24(5) when it appears.

Well, let's expand on the "I don't know!", and deliver on our promise to provide an updated report. "SSCI" is the *Social Sciences Citation Index*® [1], published by Thomson Reuters [2], present day owners of the "Impact Factor" [3]. The "list" referred to by our correspondent is the list of journals indexed in SSCI [4]. Our first and only editorial mention of SSCI was in AJET Editorial 23(2) [5], stating that on 18 April 2007 we had received some welcome news from a Thomson ISI Editor:

I am happy to inform you that the Australasian Journal of Educational Technology has been selected for coverage in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). Indexing of this title is scheduled to begin later in 2007 [5]

Nothing happened for almost one year, although we made a number of follow up inquiries by email. Then we received a letter from Thomson Scientific, printed on paper and dated April 4, 2008, informing us that "Beginning with V. 23 (1) 2007" AJET will be "indexed and abstracted" in *Social Sciences Citation Index*®, *Social Scisearch*® and *Journal Citation Reports/Social Sciences Edition*. Very promptly we completed and returned their "Journal Information Sheet", nominating electronic delivery, method FTP, format PDF (the usual way to do these things). Six months later we are still waiting to receive an FTP host address, login name and password to enable electronic delivery. Hence the "I don't know!"

Currently SSCI covers only 99 journals in education [4], which is far from a reasonable number compared with other disciplines, especially those in the STM (scientific, technical, medical) areas. The current coverage in education is very American and UK oriented, multinational publisher oriented, and is much smaller than its competitors such as the database products by EBSCO [6], Gale [7], ERA [8], Elsevier [9] and others. Compared with its competitors, SSCI's coverage of journals related to educational technology [4] seems to be meagre, including only 9 journals, namely:

British Journal of Educational Technology [10]
Computers & Education [11]
Educational Technology & Society [12]
Educational Technology Research and Development [13]
Innovations in Education and Teaching International [14]
Instructional Science [15]
Interactive Learning Environments [16]
Journal of Computer Assisted Learning [17]
Language Learning & Technology [18]



Macquarie University, Sydney, 5 December 2008. <http://lams2008sydney.lamsfoundation.org/>

Of the nine journals in this list, only two, ET&S [12] and LLT [18] are open access. This is an interesting point, reflected upon by Michael Jensen [19] of the USA's National Academies [20], in a remarkable essay on *the new metrics of scholarly authority* [21]

... those who completely lock their material behind subscription walls risk marginalizing themselves over the long term. They simply won't be counted in the new authority measures. They need to cooperate with some of the new search sites and online repositories, share their data with outside computing systems...
 ... if scholarly output is locked away behind fire walls, or on hard drives, or in print only, it risks becoming invisible to the automated Web crawlers, indexers, and authority-interpreters that are being developed. Scholarly invisibility is rarely the path to scholarly authority. [21]

We agree with Jensen's depiction of the 'new authority measures', with some enthusiasm, as indicated in our previous Editorial 24(2) discussing the topic, "IM 28: *Abstracted & Indexed In...*" [22]. However, to be prudent, our monitoring and promoting brief has to encompass efforts in at least two main directions. The first is the 'older' authority metrics that are behind subscription walls, for example Thomson Reuters, *Scopus* and Gale (an agreement with Gale is going to AJET's Management Committee, meeting during *ascilite Melbourne 2008*, for approval; agreements with ERA and EBSCO are in place). The second direction is the 'newer' authority metrics, especially *Google*, as explored in Editorial 24(2) [22] and previous Editorials. The qualifying phrase 'at least' reminds us that new providers of 'authority measures' [Jensen, 21] may emerge in the future.

For example, an interesting newcomer popped up in the email recently. China Education Publications Import and Export Corporation (CEPIEC) [23] has developed "...the first comprehensive Open Access platform --- Socolar (www.socolar.com) in China which covers almost all outstanding OA resources worldwide." [24]. Their intention to promote open access journals within China is clear (and commendable):

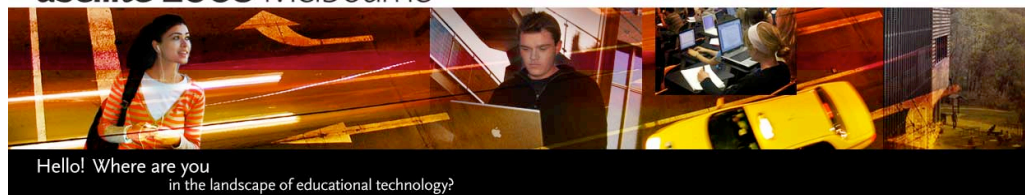
Ever Since the launch of the testing version, Socolar boasts the high visit rate and page view which are 4000 to 5000 person per day and 50,000 times daily on average respectively. Users are mainly from higher education institutes, research institutes and hospitals. Since the platform enhanced the understanding of Chinese users towards open access, more and more people realize the importance and the merits of OA resources. [24, 25]



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

Manchester, UK, 8-10 September 2009
<http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2009/>

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However, at present Socolar is operating in "Beta" or "test version". It needs more work on its search capabilities, which on the basis of a very brief exploration, seem to us to be less powerful than *Google* and others. The matter of agreements to store copies of open access journal articles on Socolar's servers will need considerable work. For example, AJET has not given a permission to copy entire issues, as Socolar's beta has done with volumes 22(1) to 24(3). The development of Socolar's software may be dependent upon both English language and computer language skills, as indicated by this intriguing error message from Socolar, in Chinese and English:

异常详细信息: System.Data.SqlClient.SqlException: 超时时间已到。在操作完成之前超时时间已过或服务器未响应。

源错误:

执行当前 Web 请求期间生成了未处理的异常。可以使用下面的异常堆栈跟踪信

堆栈跟踪:

```
[SqlException: 超时时间已到。在操作完成之前超时时间已过或服务器未响应。]
System.Data.SqlClient.SqlCommand.ExecuteNonQuery() +182
socolar.pub.mklog(String sUrx, String sPg)
socolar.js.Page_Load(Object sender, EventArgs e)
System.Web.UI.Control.OnLoad(EventArgs e) +67
```

Figure 1: Example of an error message (cropped from a screen picture)
 Recorded on 20 Nov 2008. The problem was fixed within a few minutes.

AJET's first five issue year

With this issue we record another notable point in AJET's development: 2008 is our first 'five issue year'. We regret that production of 24(5) became slower than promised, owing to the Production Editor's commitment to a range of activities for *ascilite Melbourne 2008*. However, on the positive side, the Conference's large number of acceptances of high quality papers and posters assures its success [27, 28].

With 10 articles and 170 B5 sized pages for the PDF files version, 24(5) is AJET's largest ever issue. This has required some compromising. As a temporary expedient, AJET 24(5) is being published in two stages, firstly PDF files released on 21 November, and secondly HTML files to be published as time becomes available. In

the normal course of production, each AJET paper receives a two stage copy editing, the first being preparation of MS Word files, from which PDF versions are created. The second copy editing occurs during the creation of HTML files using a text editor (currently MS Word 5 for Macintosh "Classic" environment). As errors are found and corrected, or as further improvements may be made to grammar, referencing and other matters, the MS Word and PDF versions are updated. So it's a risk to upload PDF versions after doing only the first stage copy editing. As post-publication errata (if any) are noted at the end of each file, readers will be able to assess within a few months whether this risk taken with 24(5) was relatively small, or otherwise!

Roger Atkinson and Catherine McLoughlin
AJET Production Editor and AJET Editor

Endnotes

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28. See *Proceedings* contents at <http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/melbourne08/procs/>



The Student Experience
Charles Darwin University
Darwin, 6-9 July 2009
<http://conference.hersa.org.au/2009/>