Contents

For details on submission of manuscripts, subscriptions and access to the AJET online archives, please see http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/

Australasian Society for Computers
in Learning in Tertiary Education
http://www.ascilite.org.au/

Supporting Societies

Supporting societies obtain bulk supplies of printed copies of AJET at the same cost as applicable for ASCILITE members, and access to AJET online articles during the period of restricted access for each issue. Inquiries about supporting society status may be directed to the Production Editor.

ISPI Melbourne Chapter
http://www.ispimelb.org.au/

INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
PERFORMANCE
IMPROVEMENT

Editorial

AJET's new   Management Committee

Discussions are proceeding amongst ASCILITE Executive and AJET's editorial team on the formation of a new Management Committee for AJET. This will replace the previous joint ASCILITE and ASET Committee that became redundant upon the dissolution of ASET at the end of 2005. The new Committee is likely to include Convenors of previous ASCILITE Conferences, previous Editors of AJET, and Executive nominees. A detailed announcement will appear in AJET 21(4) editorial.

Length of AJET articles

Writing editorial notes on specifications for the lengths of articles is not the most exciting of topics. Nevertheless, it is a topic that warrants a continuous watching brief by editors of scholarly publications. To begin with, in our case there is a somewhat mundane problem in production: filling each issue as close as possible to the practical limit of about 150 pages imposed by our use of C5 envelopes (229 x 162 mm). These provide the most economical format for Australia Post [1] distribution of the printed version of AJET (A5 format, 210 x 148 mm) to Australian subscribers and ASCILITE members. The thickness of 150 pages of 80 g/sq m paper plus covers

ASCILITE 2006 - SYDNEY

WHO'S LEARNING? WHOSE TECHNOLOGY

3-6 December. http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/sydney06/

Awards 2006
for exemplary use of electronic technologies in teaching and learning in tertiary education
http://www.ascilite.org.au/awards.html

**Global Summit 2006
Technology Connected
Futures**

17-19 October 2006, Sydney, Australia
http://www.educationau.edu.au/globalsummit2006

is about 8.5 mm, which amounts to a tight squeeze for C5 prepaid envelopes. During the years1999 to 2005, AJET's articles remained at average lengths that allowed up to 7-8 articles per issue (range 18.1-19.2 pages, calculated annually), but in 2006 to date, we have averaged 21.0 pages per article. This 'blowout' is one factor that has prompted the brief review of length specifications summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Some illustrative examples of length specifications

Type	Acronym	Access	Length specification
Journal	AARL	Open	Manuscripts should not exceed 5000 words
	AER	Open	Paper length should be approximately 5,000 to 6,000 words…
	AJET	Open	5000-8000 words (MS Word count)
	ALT-J	Subs	Papers should not exceed 5,000 words
	BJET	Subs	…should not normally exceed 4000 words including references
	CALL-EJ	Open	Full length articles should not exceed 5,000 words
	CJLT	Open	…should not exceed 6500 words
	DE	Subs	Articles should not exceed 7,000 words
	e-JIST	Open	…normally be between 2000 and 6000 words
	ER	Open	Articles should run from 5,000 to 7,500 words…
	HERD	Subs	5,000-7,000 words (including tables, figures, references etc).
	JALN	Open	No statement on length.
	JETS	Open	Full length articles (between 4000 and 7000 words)
	JCMC	Open	…should be roughly 7,000-10,000 words.
Procee-dings	AARE 2006	Open	…about 15 pages maybe 20 pages limit, …about 7000 words.
	ASCILITE 2006	Open	Full papers (typically 8-10 pages); Concise papers (max 4 pages)
	ASCILITE '05, '04	Open	10 pages (full) or 4 pages (concise)
	AUQF2006	Open	…no more than four A4 pages or 2000 words in length,…
	AusWeb06	Open	…full papers (3,500 to 5,000 words)
	HERDSA '06	Open	3000 words
	HERDSA '03	Open	3000-4000 words
	ODLAA '05	Open	…between 3000 and 4000 words
	ODLAA '03	Open	Full papers… 10-12 pages... Short papers.. 5-7 pages plus references.
	TLF '06, '05	Open	…no more than 5000 words (same in 2005)
	TLF '04, '03	Open	…no more than 3000 words (same in 2003)

Table 2: References for Table 1

Acronym	Full name	URL
AARE	Australian Association for Research in Education	http://www.aare.edu.au/confpap.htm
AARL	Australian Academic & Research Libraries	http://alia.org.au/publishing/aarl/
AER	Australian Educational Researcher	http://www.aare.edu.au/aer/about.htm
AJET	Australasian Journal of Educational Technology	http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/
ALT-J	ALT-J: Research in Learning Technology	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/09687769.asp
ASCILITE	Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education	http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences.html
AUQF	Australian Universities Quality Forum	http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2006/
AusWeb	Australasian World Wide Web Conference	http://ausweb.scu.edu.au/
BJET	British Journal of Educational Technology	http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0007-1013&site=1
CALL-EJ	CALL-EJ Online	http://www.tell.is.ritsumei.ac.jp/callejonline/
CJLT	Canadian Journal of Learning and Technology	http://www.cjlt.ca/
DE	Distance Education	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/01587919.asp
e-JIST	e-Journal of Instructional Science and Technology	http://www.usq.edu.au/electpub/e-jist/
ER	Educational Researcher	http://www.aera.net/publications/?id=317
HERD	Higher Education Research and Development	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/07294360.asp
HERDSA	Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia	http://www.herdsa.org.au/conferences.php
JALN	Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks	http://www.sloan-c.org/publications/jaln/index.asp
JCMC	Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication	http://jcmc.indiana.edu/
ODLAA	Open and Distance Learning Society of Australia	http://www.odlaa.org/
TLF	Teachiing and Learning Forum	http://lsn.curtin.edu.au/tlf/tlf-pubs.html

Tables 1 and 2 represent a 'quick' selection from a large list of journal and conference proceedings that may be relevant for educational technology researchers [2], rather than a systematic stratified sample. However it does indicate that AJET is similar to its peer journals, and that conference proceedings tend to specify similar to somewhat shorter lengths (AJET's A5 page size is approximately equal to 0.5-0.6 A4 pages for a typical conference's specification of length and format). Some conferences specify shorter lengths, e.g. HERDSA, or specify two classes, e.g. ASCILITE.
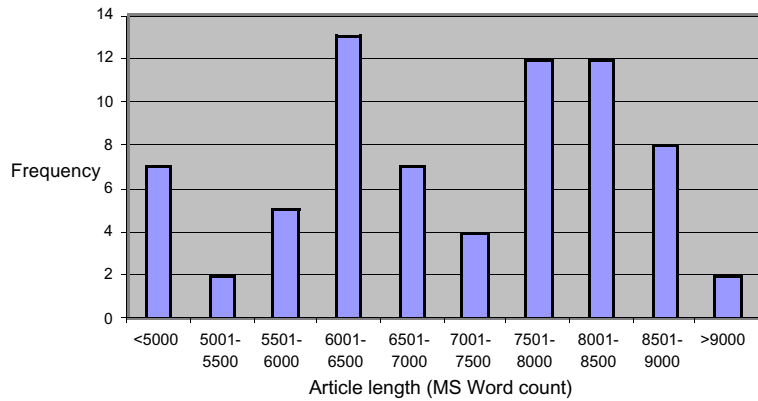
Figure 1: Distribution of AJET article lengths, 20(1) to 22(3) inclusive

Whilst AJET's length specification appears reasonable when compared with others, it's really necessary to monitor actual lengths, as illustrated in Figure 1. A significant proportion of AJET articles exceed 8000 words. Having noted that, does it matter? Pending further investigation, here is some sound advice from AARE [3]:

> Deciding the length of a paper is an academic maturity test for intending presenters and is related inextricably with the topic being treated. The issue is how many words does it take to write a manageable "chunk" or piece of work. Precedence could be taken from the discipline imposed by journal articles, shorter rather than longer.

Roger Atkinson and Catherine McLoughlin
AJET Production Editor and AJET Editor

Endnotes

1. Australia Post. http://www.auspost.com.au/
2. See AJET, http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/about/ref/references.html, for lists of related journals and conference proceedings.
3. Australian Association for Research in Education. How long should a "paper" be? [verified 5 Sep 2006] http://www.aare.edu.au/conf2006/faq.htm

Curtin University of Technology, Perth, 30 Nov - 1 Dec 2006
http://lsn.curtin.edu.au/eac2006/