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| Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education http://www.ascilite.org.au/ | Australian Society for Educational Technology http://cleo.murdoch.edu.au/aset/ |

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ISPI Melbourne Chapter
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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

## Editorial

Welcome to the first issue for 2000, an issue in which we have reprinted a selection of the best papers from ASCILITE'99, the 16th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education held at the Queensland University of Technology in December 1999. ASCILITE conferences are renowned for the quality and depth of their papers and it was this fact that prompted our decision to publish some of the papers in AJET, to extend their availability and visibility to a broader audience. As readers will be aware, the review process for ASCILITE conferences is very stringent and 1999 was no exception. All papers were submitted to a double blind review process and reviewers were also asked to nominate the best papers from the lists that they reviewed. Through this process, this collection of papers has resulted. The presented papers are those that received the highest recommendations from the reviewers and represent a range of issues and outcomes in the use of instructional technologies in higher education.

In the first paper Lyn Schaverien describes the design and development of the Generative Virtual Classroom, a web-based environment supporting teacher education in technology and science. Lyn's paper describes the process by which the concept and product were developed and discusses her plans for research to explore its use in mainstream teacher education. The second paper was written by David Kennedy, Norm Eizenberg and Gregor Kennedy and describes An@tomedia, a CD-ROM based learning environment for learning anatomy. The paper describes an evaluation of the product in classroom use and reports feedback from both tutors and students in its discussion.

# Flexible Learning for a Flexible Society

The Australian Society for Educational Technology and the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia are hosting Conference 2000 at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Sunday 2 July to Wednesday 5 July, 2000. The call for abstracts deadline is 20 February 2000.

http://cleo.murdoch.edu.au/aset/confs/aset-herdsa2000/

In the third paper, Alan Ellis and Renata Phelps describe the early phases of a systems approach to staff development for online delivery being undertaken at Southern Cross University. The paper describes key issues that emerged as indicators for others attempting similar forms of learning outcomes for staff development. In his paper Rod Sims provides a theoretical perspective on interactivity in technology-based learning settings. The paper provides a comprehensive review and synthesis of the literature describing interactive learning and discusses the forms of engagement that can be achieved.

Catherine McLoughlin and Ron Oliver's paper describes a project undertaken at Edith Cowan University to develop online materials for Indigenous Australian learners. The paper provides a discussion of the cultural issues associated with designing such learning materials and provides examples of the design guidelines that informed the design and development of the materials. Finally Dubravka Cecez-Kecmanovic and Carolyn Webb have provided a paper that reports on explorations of Web-mediated collaborative learning, leading to their description of the communicative model of collaborative learning built on Habermas' theory of communicative action.

These six papers provide a snapshot of contemporary Australian work in the design and development of technology facilitated learning environments for higher education. We hope that you enjoy reading them and will find them useful additions to the literature base that informs and guides your own work.

Ron Oliver
Editor

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## ASCILITE 2000

**hosted by**

**Southern Cross University**

**at Coffs Harbour NSW**

**9-14 December 2000**

**http://multimedia.scu.edu.au/ascilite2000/**