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Editorial

This issue attains our most immediate goal in relation to production aspects for the Australian Journal of Educational Technology. We needed to assure authors and subscribers that under joint production by ASCILITE and ASET we could produce and deliver AJET “on time, on budget”. Although we very much regret that we could not achieve the target of “print AJET 13(2) before Christmas 1997”, the journal is now well positioned for consolidation with Volume 14 in 1998.

We have received a very gratifying response to our calls for papers, and with those currently in the review process, we expect AJET 14(1) to be issued well before the notional deadline of mid 1998. We have contained production and distribution costs by working to the greatest possible extent with volunteer labour, by using email only communications for review and production processes, by adopting an economical format in relation to printing costs, and by taking the first steps towards the evolution of the AJET web site into the primary avenue of publication.

We will continue those trends into 1998. We need to offer authors the shortest possible period between submission date and publication date, consistent with a fair, rigorous and formative process of peer review. Whilst that is a desirable goal for any kind of academic publication, it is especially so in educational technology, characterised by rapid adoption of new technologies and substantial critical rethinking and reflection about the “how, what, why and for whom” concerning technologically mediated teaching and learning activities.

We will continue our printed version of AJET and its distribution to members of ASCILITE and ASET and to libraries and other subscribers. However, to provide more rapid publication, during 1998 we will explore with our managing Societies the pros and cons of moving to primary publication on the AJET web site, with print issues following at a later date, when a sufficient number of articles, typically 4 to 7, are accumulated to warrant a “print, package and post” job.

To ensure member participation in the decisions about the relative roles and primacies of web and hard copy publication, you are invited to contribute via the Societies emailing lists, accessible through our web sites. During 1998 your Editorial Board and the Societies have to consider also a number
of other matters in long term policy, including subscription rates for the
print version, the number of issues per year, the feasibility or otherwise of
adding new sections which publish different kinds of articles, our
relationship to the substantial volume of fast track publication occurring via
conference proceedings, and the possibilities for collaboration with other,
similar journals or publishers elsewhere in the world.

Roger Atkinson
Production Editor
Australian Journal of Educational Technology

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