



Delft University of Technology

## Editorial

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## Editorial

Marc J. de Vries<sup>1</sup>

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In January 2025 it is exactly 25 years ago that I took over the editorship of the International Journal of Technology and Design Education from Edgar Jenkins. A lot has changed since then. In 2000 the journal was still published by Kluwer Academic Publishers. Later they were taken over by Springer. I remember that at first I used to get all articles sent to me by surface mail in threefold with envelopes to forward them to reviewers with envelopes for them to send me their reviews. It took more than a week for the articles to arrive at a reviewer in Australia, for instance, and another week before the reviews were in my office (excluding the time it took for the reviewer to write the review of course). And that was only the beginning of all the sending back and forth of articles, reviews and decision forms all by surface mail. I had a corner in my office with a high pile of articles and forms. What a relief it was when Internet could be used and later the Electronic Manager came.

Also I remember that in the early days of my editorship, I had a continuous concern to get the upcoming issue filled. I used a trick to make authors speed up their revision work by promising them that if they would send the revised text to me within a week or so, I would give priority to it and place it in the upcoming issue. But in fact there was no priority because I was just desperate to get the necessary number of articles finished for that upcoming issue. This has also changed dramatically in the course of time. The number of submitted articles increased and we could go to more pages per issue and later also to more issues per year. Even with those measures we still have a backlog of about a year, so that my worries about the next issue are really over.

This increase in incoming articles is due partly to my editorial decision to allow for articles in tertiary education, particularly in the field of architecture education and industrial design education. My idea was to make it easier for researchers in (primary and secondary) technology education to see what kind of insights were gained in the tertiary fields that also dealt with design learning and vice versa. I have never regretted this decision even though it caused a certain defocussing of the journal. On the point of educational technology, often confused with technology education, I kept strict rules: they were rejected immediately.

Also the list of editorial board members has changed over the years. There are only few names in the current list that were already there when I took over. Some of the editorial board members have passed away, others have retired. Originally the editorial board was rather UK-dominated but that changed when I invited more and more colleagues from other countries to join the board. In the beginning the number of articles was small enough

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to ask only editorial board members for reviewing. Now we have many reviewers that are not in the editorial board, but the list of editorial board members is reviewed regularly to include reviewers that have significantly attributed to the journal, and to remove names of those that stopped responding to invitations and may no longer be active.

I am really grateful to all the editorial board members and other reviewers for the work they have done. Without that an academic journal cannot not exist. The only way the journal could maintain its quality is through quality reviews. It was a great recognition for our journal when it received the status of an A-journal (this is the highest level of an academic journal in those countries that use the ABC-system for identifying the academic status of journals). Also the indexes used for identifying the impact of the journal have risen over time and that, too, is the result of high quality reviews.

After 25 years of editorship it is now time to hand over. Dr. Jeff Buckley for some time already functions as my associate editor and it is with full confidence that I now lay the responsibility for the journal in his capable hands (or rather Springer does that, but on my recommendation). Jeff is an excellent scholar who has a strong position in the field of Technology Education. I wish him the same pleasure in being the editor-in-chief that I had throughout the period of my editorship. He is young enough to function for the next 25 years, but of course no one needs to be as crazy as I am to keep doing it for such a long time. I wish the journal all the best for the future and it was a wonderful experience for me to serve as its editor-in-chief. I finally want to thank the consecutive people in the Springer office who had the journal in their portfolio, starting from Peter de Liefde up to Puja Dayal, for their continuous trust in me. I hope I have not failed them and I hope and expect that the journal will continue to get the excellent care from the publisher that it has had over the years.

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