Welcome to Issue #4 of the *International Journal of Information and Communication Technology Education*. Included in this installment are representative articles from business, computer science and information technology; distance learning; and teaching and learning with technology. Frankly, we need more submissions in our other two focus areas of corporate training and communications technology education. The six articles in Issue #4 characterize research synopsis (four articles) as well as one book review and one practice-based abstract.

Issue #4 also introduces another enrichment to the IJICTE’s coverage of technology education with the adoption of the book review format. Critiques of textbooks, primers, course materials, and other digests of educational technology-based works are encouraged as we seek to expand the base of IJICTE concentration. Book reviews should be limited to 1,500 words and include an examination of material representing one of the five key focus areas: business, computer science and information technology; distance learning; teaching and learning with technology; corporate training; or communications technology education. The manuscript for this format should include a maximum 100 word abstract of the article and its findings along with book details including title, edition, author(s), length (in number of pages), year published and publisher, and ISBN number. We look forward to publishing two to three reviews in each of our subsequent issues.

For more information on submissions to IJICTE, please visit www.idea-group.com/ijicte.

*E-Learning: The Vision Beyond Current Norms and Processes in Higher Education* explores a new higher education paradigm in the changing environment surrounding the globalization and rapid development of the Internet. This practice-based abstract finds that teachers are beginning to realize that they must adapt to the presence of the Internet. In parallel, university managers and administrators will need to adapt their structures, strategies, procedures and programs to deal with the processes of globalization. Based on international research Lalita Rajasingham’s paper presents a vision and a paradigm from which higher education might be modernized to improve online learning.

Drs. Jianxia Du, Byron Havard and James Adams offer us an excellent research synopsis titled, *A Project Based Learning Approach: Online Group Collaborative Learning*. Their paper illustrates a framework for online group collaborative learning based on Piagetian concepts of assimilation and accommodation and Vygotsky’s theory of social interaction. For those who enjoy reading about the psychological impact of
teaching and learning with technology, this article examines how an online project-based learning approach affects students’ cognitive skills development. It found that unique online group environment characteristics exist for: leadership style and individual role, goal setting and project management, accountability and commitment, peer supportive relationships, individual accomplishment and group accomplishments, and mixed gender and race group preference. This is an ideal article for post-graduate studies in information technology education.

The Use of Online Technology in the Teaching and Learning Process: WebCT - Communication Technology or Communication Turn-Off? is authored by Maggie Ferguson and Adrian Ibbetson (University of Central Lancashire). The paper provides an evaluation of the effectiveness of delivering courses using a combination of traditional and online teaching methods versus the value of spontaneous implementation of computer mediated instructional settings. The findings of their investigation offers both negative and positive attributes to either method of instructional delivery and identifies the main positive attributes of online learning as flexibility and accessibility. The authors conclude their research efforts with a viable inventory of possible topics for future research in distance learning education.

An Empirical Study of the Effects of Training Sequences on Database Training Tasks and User Outcomes is authored by Clive C. Sanford (Lviv Polytechnic National University, Ukrain) and Anol Bhattacherjee (University of South Florida). It introduces the concept of sequencing IS training and examines how this process can impact learning outcomes. Building on assimilation theory, the authors propose four hypotheses relating training sequences to task performance, satisfaction and self-efficacy. In their research, these elements are tested using a quasi-experimental study in a database design context. Implications for follow-on IS training research and practice are discussed. The study deserves additional recognition as the hands-down favorite by editors who reviewed the manuscript. As such, I am pleased to announce that the IJICTE Editor’s Award of Excellence goes to Sanford and Bhattacherjee for their empirical results that suggested subjects trained in the conceptual-procedural sequence achieve better transfer task performance and higher self-efficacy than those trained in the reverse sequence. Congratulations on an outstanding research project and a very well-written paper.

Update — Anytime/Anywhere – Finding Our Way: Better Understanding the Needs and Motivations of Teachers in Online Learning is authored by Kathleen P. King, Frank J. Melia and Marlene D. Dunham. This paper addresses issues faced in online learning environments as educators continue to discover how to best serve their students’ learning needs. It introduces a two-step study that employed large sample surveys and focus groups to empirically identify critical factors in instructional design and implementation. The most telling findings expound upon four themes regarding teacher online professional development: learner expectations, learner support and access, incentives, and content.

Our first book review examines the second edition of Distance Education: A Systems View by Michael Moore and Greg Kearsley (2005). The textbook presents current applications of distance education from the vantage point of instructional systems design. For those readers interested in a distance learning primer, Muhammad K. Betz offers a point of view of a prospective textbook with strengths that include the impact of considering the uniqueness of online courses from the point of view of systematic development and management.
As you enjoy this fourth issue of the *International Journal of Information and Communication Technology Education*, please remember that the success of any journal depends in large measure on the number of quality manuscripts submitted for consideration. Now that we have added book reviews to our list of accepted formats, your continued support in the form of submissions, encouragement of prospective authors, and publicizing of our journal in professional channels is greatly appreciated.

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