



Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education Annual Report 2001

This report collects some highlights of our activities during the last calendar year together with a reminder of the Society's goals, our officers and contact information. As you will see, ASCILITE continues to maintain its healthy state and leadership in an area of some moment in tertiary education.

Our membership continues to rise, our financial situation is sound and the Executive are busily engaged in a number of initiatives. (2001 saw a significant change in the composition of the ASCILITE Executive and with this has come a shift in the focus of our activities.) Meanwhile, our conferences continue to function well as a place of exchange and the Australian Journal of Educational Technology also flourishes.

This all requires energetic people to help it succeed. I would like to take this opportunity to especially acknowledge the efforts of the Executive, our Secretariat and our creative conference committees. Plus, there's also the much appreciated flow of ideas and support from our wider membership! Thank you *all* for your continued support.

Helen Carter
President

Membership and Services

In November 2001 our membership was nudging 500, with membership rising daily due to Conference registration benefits. A number of initiatives have been undertaken throughout the year. These are at various stages and include:

Administration

- activation of an online application form to join ASCILITE completed;
- use of secure online credit-card payment system for renewal of memberships is underway;
- automated welcome email message for new members completed;
- automated monthly welcome for new members on VCS messaging system completed;
- automated email message thanking members for renewing membership completed;
- securing of additional discounts to relevant journals (contact Secretariat for details);
- changes to the Constitution and by-laws were also drafted this year to: (i) support these initiatives and (ii) strengthen support and communication lines between Conference Organisers and the Executive.

Information and Communication

- online access to ASCILITE conference papers was improved;
- updates on members of the Executive and Executive activities added to web site;
- updates to the home page and the addition of the ASCILITE Newsletter to the ASCILITE web site were made. More extensive changes are planned, including the re-organisation of content into more appropriate sections and the expansion of the Links Database;
- revision of ASCILITE brochure completed;
- a special edition of our journal, AJET, in addition to the regular three, was produced this year.

Finances

For the financial year 2000-2001, the Society had an operating surplus of \$9,500, largely due to the \$17,000 surplus from the ASCILITE 99 Conference, which was received in August 2000. The Society has healthy reserves of over \$66,000. Our major expenses were the Secretariat (\$9,000), AJET, (\$7,500) and Executive meetings (\$5,900). The ASCILITE 2000 Conference ran at a loss of \$9,600 which will be realised in the current financial year. A complete set of audited accounts will be presented and available at the Annual General Meeting in Melbourne and later from the Secretariat.

Newsletter

A revived online ASCILITE newsletter is now published three times yearly. Each newsletter contains a lead article and regular sections highlighting what's interesting on the ASCILITE web site and elsewhere. Lead articles in 2001 have featured, Future Partnerships in Higher Education (Terry Hilsberg), The Health Care Game (Johanna Westbrook) and a conversation with Tony Bates (Scott Diener). Interesting sites elsewhere included work in progress on learning objects and the Institute for teaching and learning and Pearson Distributed learning web sites. While there were a few early teething problems, strategies for producing the Newsletter are now in place. Suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Conferences

Organising our conferences is no small task. The Society is grateful to the 2000 conference committee for their hard work in organising the Coffs Harbour event. The 2001 Annual Conference in Melbourne is shaping up to be a success and the 2002 Annual Conference in New Zealand is already well on the way with planning.

Well over 300 delegates will attend ASCILITE 2001 at the University of Melbourne. The theme for the conference is "Meeting at the Crossroads" which examines convergence, reflection, innovation and collaboration. One of the predominant means of fostering our work is through collaboration, whether this is between students, teachers, institutions or internationally. By coming together we can reassess the impact of technology on education and look out towards the new possibilities for the use of emerging technologies. This year's conference has 61 full and 42 short papers, all of which have been double-blind refereed.

Regional Activities

2001 Activity

During 2001 an event organised by Unitec in Auckland and the University of Auckland was supported with sponsorship. This provided an opportunity to promote the ASCILITE 2002 conference, to be held in Auckland, and to further promote benefits of ASCILITE membership to those working in the New Zealand tertiary sector.

Coming Activity

A group from the Association for Learning Technology (UK) and SURF (Netherlands) are visiting Australia, with a view to establishing future collaborations. They will arrive in Sydney on March 11th and spend time with the ASCILITE executive and visiting local institutions. Smaller groups will travel to country NSW, Perth or Brisbane, then meet up again in Melbourne to visit institutions there. They will leave on 22nd March, 2002. While here they will compile a report, in collaboration with their Australian colleagues, which will be published in a future edition of AJET. This is a great opportunity for ASCILITE to collaborate with related professional organisations.

Campus Representatives

A survey of all ASCILITE members currently listed as campus representatives was conducted so the database could be updated. Representatives were also asked to identify relevant regional events that may be of interest to ASCILITE members, and other organizations that working relationships could be developed with. Responses to the survey were encouraging with most existing representatives happy to continue in the role and to suggest events and organizations for future collaboration.

ASCILITE Awards

Thanks to entrants in recent awards as well as to the judging panels. The awards are one of our strategies to both acknowledge some of our members great work, and to garner it some useful publicity.

About ASCILITE

The Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE) is a society for *those involved in tertiary education and training, especially computer-facilitated learning and educational interactive multimedia*. It provides a forum to stimulate discussion of relevant issues in *the educational use of technology*, as well as *promoting research and evaluation*. ASCILITE also promotes *co-operation and liaison* with other groups and organisations which have complementary aims.

Enquiries about membership may be directed to: ASCILITE Secretariat, c/- CEDIR, University of Wollongong, WOLLONGONG 2522. Phone 02-4221 4895 or email info@ascilite.org.au

Communication

- The **Annual Report** provides a summary of the executive and administrative activities and a financial summary for the calendar year.
- The **Australian Journal of Educational Technology** is produced three times a year and is available free to financial members of ASCILITE. It is a refereed journal, which publishes high quality articles in the area of education and technology.
- The **ASCILITE Newsletter** is published electronically three times a year and provides discussion on more topical issues.
- ASCILITE also maintains a number of **listservers** for communicating with members. A general list (ascilite-general@vcs.ascilite.org.au), which is moderated, provides administrative and executive information to members, as well as alerting members to current conferences, positions vacant and similar.

Executive Members

President Helen Carter University of Wollongong	Secretariat Tina Geist University of Wollongong
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Vice-President Cathy Gunn University of Auckland	Treasurer Russell Pennell University of Wollongong
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Committee

Carmel McNaught, RMIT University
Mike Fardon, University of Western Australia
Tony Gilding, Monash University
Mike Keppell, University of Melbourne
Gerry Lefoe, University of Wollongong
Matthew Riddle, University of Melbourne

Seconded

Allan Christie, NetSpot Pty Ltd, South Australia
Craig Zimitat, Griffith University

Further information about the Society is available from the ASCILITE web site: www.ascilite.org.au