PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I am very pleased to report that the ascilite2014conference in Dunedin New Zealand was a fabulous conference that offered a true 'ascilite experience'. The papers and presentations were of the highest calibre and the creativity and sense of fun instilled by the Organising Committee, especially with the Steampunk dinner held at the Dunedin Town Hall, created a conference that was highly entertaining and memorable. I would like to acknowledge the significant efforts of the conference convenors, Jenny McDonald and Bronwyn Hegarty, PCO Sally Boult and the organising Committee.

In my final President's report that follows, you will get a sense of our achievements over the past year as well as ongoing challenges. The report is again organised around the major themes of our 2012-2015 strategic plan. We have made strong headway with several ascilite ICT infrastructure projects that modernise the ways that ascilite and our journal AJET operate. Some new initiatives are gaining momentum such as the CMALT Australasia professional recognition scheme for learning technologists and ascilite Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Equally, more established activities such as our Community Mentoring Program (CMP) and *ascilite Live* Webinar Series continue to attract strong member participation. Of course our annual conference and journal AJET are still jewels in our crown – offering world-class opportunities to share research and practices in our field of learning technologies.

I have been honoured to serve on the ascilite Executive since December 2006 first as an ordinary Executive Member, then as Vice President (3 years) and as President for two terms. It is now time for others to contribute to the leadership and direction of this exceptional Society and community. I have been fortunate to have served alongside world-class leaders who have also been highly passionate about ascilite. Together we have listened to you, our members, and worked hard to continually renew and reinvigorate ascilite for the future. I am highly confident that I am leaving ascilite in great shape, in good hands and under excellent leadership.

Caroline Steel, ascilite President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMUNITY & PRACTICE

Strategic Goals

- Create community-building opportunities that enable ascilite members to lead, connect, and collaborate across a productive professional network.

- Encourage and promote the sharing of future-focused, evidence-based practices in the use of educational technologies.

Strategic Objectives

- Invite ascilite members to suggest, lead, contribute to, and participate in ascilite initiatives.

- Create opportunities for members to connect and share professional knowledge, expertise and practice and network in relevant communities of practice.

- Develop strong mechanisms for communication across the community.

- Promote professional recognition of members working in the field of educational technologies across Australasia and internationally.

- Invite highly esteemed practitioners to stimulate ideas, discussion and community knowledge with regards to trends and uses of educational technologies in tertiary education.

ICT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

In early 2014, the AJET Management Committee determined it necessary to move AJET's online **journal management system** (Open Journal System) to a specialist hosting company, PKP Publishing. This move was completed recently and will provide a more stable and easily updatable platform for AJET. As part of the changeover, articles published on the AJET website prior to the move to OJS in 2012 were brought into the OJS system. We also commenced a subscription to the Cross Ref Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) provider and all articles are expected to be assigned a DOI by late 2015. A huge thank you to **Barney Dalgarno** with assistance from **Elizabeth Coulter**, (co-opted ascilite Executive member), along with key personnel from Blackboard/Netspot and PKP Publishing; the team who undertook initial planning and testing prior to the live transfer in September 2015. Ascilite and the AJET Team would also like to thank **Allan Christie** (co-opted

Executive Member, Blackboard) for his ongoing support over many years in providing hosting services for AJET.

Following the successful implementation of the **new ascilite website** in 2014 – 2015 and integration of a range of **Social Media tools**, we commenced work on the development of a **new Membership Management System (MMS)** in late 2015. In addition to providing a range of enhanced management features, the new MMS will enable individual members to:

- Identify their membership renewal date
- View their membership payment history
- Automatically receive PDF tax invoices
- Provide access to a member's only area of the website

In addition to enhancing individual membership access, the new system will allow institutional members to login and view or edit their own member list. **Andre Colbert** (Secretariat), with the assistance of **Mark Northover** (ascilite Executive, AUT) recently beta tested the new system which is expected to go live in early 2016. Oversight of the project has been provided by **Elizabeth Coulter** (Director of IT at University of Auckland and co-opted Executive member).

COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Chris Campbell (ascilite Executive) and **Andre Colbert** (Secretariat) maintain ascilite's social media accounts comprising active profiles on Facebook**,** Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube. They regularly post news and announcements while video recordings of *ascilite Live!* webinars are posted to YouTube.

Over the course of the year, the number of 'likes' on ascilite's Facebook page rose from 133 to 221 while the number of followers on Twitter rose from 143 to 318. Ascilite's LinkedIn account was activated in July 2014 and quickly grew to 340. Connections now exceed 500 and in 2016 the Executive will be exploring ways to connect ascilite's extended social media contacts, particularly those on LinkedIn. Additionally, the ascilite fortnightly bulletin continues to serve as a critical communication channel for the Society.

NATA PROJECT

The aim of the ascilite NATA Project is to develop a Guide to promote best practice in the online engagement of members of professional associations and networks. In 2014, a team of

researchers from the University of Adelaide (Edward Palmer, Michelle Picard and Julia Miller) undertook an extensive literature review that expanded on the findings of a foundational research study into the opportunities and potential for using social media for professional networking and engagement. In 2015 senior ascilite executive members progressed this work through the development of a user-friendly 15 page guide that provides:

- A summary of research and evaluation findings about the use of social media for professional networking and engagement.
- Exemplars of how social media can be effectively used to facilitate professional networking and engagement.
- Details of how professional organisations can get started using social media to facilitate professional networking and engagement.
- Design principles for professional organisations to adopt to support and advance network engagement for their members

It is anticipated that the Guide will be made available to stakeholders and ascilite members in late 2015 or early 2016.

CMALT AUSTRALASIA

In partnership with the UK based Association for Learning Technology (ALT), ascilite offers CMALT Australasia, a professional recognition scheme for people working with learning technologies. The scheme is led by ascilite Executive members **Janet Buchan** (Lourdes Hill College) and **Mark Northover** (AUT). The main goals for 2015 were to build the profile and recognition of the scheme and to invest in supporting members to achieve their CMALT Australasia certified membership recognition. We also worked with ALT to provide information and training opportunities to prepare current CMALT holders to become assessors. We now have at least four ascilite CMALT assessors.

In 2015 we provided a number of activities to support our members through the development of their CMALT professional portfolios, including two webinars and the CMALT Community of Practice. The CMALT CoP uses a Google+ community site currently serves 18 members.

Ascilite further invests in supporting CMALT CoP members by offering a rebate on conference registration (equivalent to the CMALT Registration fee) to those ascilite members who submitted their portfolios prior to the Conference. Four members of the CoP have submitted or are close to submitting their portfolios in 2015.

A huge thank you to current ascilite CMALT holders who have generously shared their time to mentor members through their portfolio development by co-presenting on webinars, helping us create videos to share their experiences, and by reviewing drafts of portfolios. The assistance of members from the ALT CMALT Development Group must also be acknowledged. Please join us at the 2015 Conference for our CMALT *sharing practice* session (seminar) to discuss the role of CMALT Australasia, professional recognition schemes and professional portfolios in developing our learning technology professionals for the future.

COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM

In 2015, the ascilite **Community Mentoring Program** again offered ascilite members "one on one" and a "2 to many" mentoring options and as a result, eight mentoring partnerships involving 12 mentees and 10 mentors were established (Table 1). It was particularly exciting to see mentors and mentees from **NZ, Australia** and **Singapore**. Two online synchronous sessions were held in 2015 for all program participants and a symposium is planned for the 2015 ascilite conference where you are invited to hear mentees and mentors discuss their projects in a panel discussion about the program.

The program owes its success to the outstanding and ongoing contributions of many **ascilite volunteer mentors** who offer support their peers. Once again, this year discounts for the annual conference registration have been offered to both mentors (25%) and mentees (50%).

Table 1: Community Mentoring Programme

Mentee	Mentor	Focus
1:1 mentoring		
Liew Shin Dee, National University of Singapore	Fiona Thurn, University of Western Sydney	Digital learning
Sharon Altena, Queensland University of Technology	Boris Handal, University of Notre Dame	Mobile learning
Alison Reedy, Charles	Michael Sankey, University	Online learning

Mentee	Mentor	Focus
Darwin University	of Southern Queensland	
Simon Welsh, Charles Sturt University	Philip Uys, Charles Sturt University	Adaptive technology, learning analytics, artificial intelligence
Kwong Nui Sim, University of Otago	Stephen Wee Hun Lim, National University of Singapore	Higher education
Teresa O'Regan-Byrnes, Manukau Institute of Technology	Andrew Chambers, UNSW	Discursive, knowledge sharing, digital education, elearning
2 to many – Collaborative Community Mentoring		
Luke Boulton, University of Newcastle Anand Ramcharand, National University of Singapore Tammy Robinson, University of Newcastle	Mark Northover, AUT University Amy Antonio, University of Southern Queensland	Mobile Learning, learning technologies, redesign teaching spaces
Jacquie Delord, Australian College of Applied Psychology Heather Smith, University of Southern Queensland Peter Bright, Deakin	Aaron Griffiths, F/Xual Education Services Helen Farley, University of Southern Queensland	Gaming, leadership, elearning

WEBINARS

Alan Soong together with **Mark Northover** and **Chris Campbell** organised and facilitated our *ascilite Live!* webinar series throughout 2015. This year (as of September 2015) 132 participants attended 6 webinars compared to 101 participants who attended 5 webinars in 2014 (Table 2). Another webinar on *MOOCs - Yes, they really can work* will be presented by Peter Mellow and Susan Batur, University of Melbourne, on 29 October 2015. ascilite webinar videos are available on the ascilite website and ascilite's YouTube channel.

The webinar team are also developing a guide on key principles and strategies for designing webinars that engage learners. Examples of how these principles and strategies are implemented in various settings, including flipping webinars will be shared in the guide. The guide will be launched in early December 2015.

Thankyou to **Blackboard's** generous sponsorship that provides ascilite with a complimentary Blackboard Collaborate account.

Table 2: 2015 ascilite live! Webinars

2015 Webinar Topic	Presenter(s)	Attendees
Community Mentoring Program (CMP)	Assoc Prof Sue Gregory, University of New England	7
Developing Your Professional Portfolio for CMALT Accreditation	Hennie Yip, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Dr Janet Buchan, James Cook University	18
Building a CMALT Australasia Portfolio	Oriel Kelly, NZ Tertiary College	9
Awards for Excellence in Learning Analytics	Simon Welsh, Charles Sturt University and Dr Abelardo Pardo, University of Sydney	14

Flipped classroom - Where to start?	Dr Abelardo Pardo, University of Sydney and Dr Negin Mirriahi, University of New South Wales	69
To Badge or not to Badge? That is the Question	Joyce Seitzinger, Academic Tribe	15
Total participants as of September 2015		**132**

ASCILITE AWARDS

PRESTIGIOUS ASCILITE LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The Life Member award category is not awarded each year as it is the most esteemed award category in the Society. In 2014, ascilite proudly awarded the ascilite Life Membership to Pro Vice-Chancellor (Educational Innovation) **Professor Gregor Kennedy** for his sustained contribution to ascilite over many years

An ascilite Life Member Award is a prestigious award that recognises the significant service and/or sustained contribution of an ascilite member to the Society. Life Member Awards are the highest recognition of achievement made by ascilite. The criteria for selecting this award include:

- Making a sustained and significant contribution to the core activities and key directions of ascilite
- Demonstrating leadership and playing an integral role in the implementation of ascilite activities and strategic objectives
- Assuming a significant role in ascilite governance such as serving on the ascilite Executive, AJET Editorial Board, Conference Committee and so on.

FELLOW AWARD

No Fellow award was awarded in 2014. In 2015, the ascilite Executive **revised the Fellow Award** to make it more meaningful to the Society and to members. It now includes **retrospective and future oriented components**. The award now recognises the outstanding contributions of individual ascilite members in the exemplary use of, and/or research into, technologies for teaching and

learning in tertiary education (**retrospective**). The Fellow agrees to perform a mutually agreed set of "ascilite champion" activities in the year of their fellowship (**future oriented**). At the end of that year, upon completion of the agreed activities, the Fellow is given a complimentary one year membership and offered a discounted conference registration. This new format was included in the 2015 Call for Award Nominations announced in September 2015.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE AWARD CATEGORY

In 2014, three applicants received **commendations**:

- University of Queensland – ITALI Flipped Classroom Initiative
- Macquarie University – Faculty Partnership Program (FPP)
- University of Auckland – Faculty of Medical and Health Science E-Portfolio Project

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The ascilite Executive, led by **Caroline Steel** established a Special Interest Group (SIG) initiative for the ascilite community in 2014. The aim of the initiative was to give ascilite members the opportunity to lead and generate community activities whilst creating a buzz around specific topics of interest through our social media tools. ascilite members were invited to submit proposals to form SIGs as per our SIG Policy & Procedures documents. Consequently, two SIGs were approved and launched at the ascilite2014 conference and sessions for both SIGs were incorporated into the conference program. As a result, ascilite had two active SIGS throughout 2015:

- Learning Analytics SIG (LA-SIG)
- Transforming Assessment SIG (TA-SIG)

While ascilite SIGs are open to member and non-members, SIG leaders must be members of ascilite. Details of the activities and plans of each of ascilite's two SIGs are presented below.

LEARNING ANALYTICS SIG

The LA SIG was established in June 2014 by Associate Prof **Shane Dawson** (University of South Australia), Adjunct Professor **Grace Lynch** (University of New England) and **Dr Negin Mirriahi** (University of NSW). In 2015 **Simon Welsh** (Charles Sturt University) took on the role of managing the SIG. In its first year the SIG made significant progress through the following activities:

- Established an LA SIG website: https://ascilite.org/connect/learning-analytics-sig/
- Implemented the inaugural Awards for Excellence in Learning Analytics, including an awards webinar and establishment of a "submissions library" to showcase innovative practice in Learning Analytics
- Established an LA SIG Google group to foster communication and collaboration
- Conducting an LA SIG session at the ascilite conference

The new awards program was particularly successful with 8 high quality submissions that now form the basis of a showcase of Learning Analytics practice and are accessible via the SIG website (http://ascilite.org/connect/learning-analytics-sig/submissions-for-the-awards-for-excellence-in-learning-analytics/). Awards finalists travel to the ascilite conference to present their projects with a cash prize to offset some of their travel costs.

In 2016 the focus will be on building the SIG community and further developing collaborative aspects of the SIG. LA SIG plans for 2016 include:

- Annual Awards for Excellence in Learning Analytics, reflecting issues in judging submissions of very different scale, we will expand the awards to address two categories: an innovation award (targeted toward smaller-scale, highly innovative projects) and an impact award (targeted toward scalable projects that show leading practice and processes for adoption).
- Community building to enhance the SIG online network through webinars and Google Groups to foster collaboration and ideas exchange between SIG members along with a closer integration of the SIG with the ascilite webinar program (where relevant to Learning Analytics) to enable us to use the SIG to source speakers and promote webinars.
- Promoting the Learning Analytics showcase via ascilite/Learning Analytics networks and the ascilite SIG website.
- Promoting the SIG through its presence at SoLAR events, e.g. ALASI.
- A possible guest speaker for the LA SIG session at the 2016 ascilite conference.

TRANSFORMING ASSESSMENT SIG

The Transforming Assessment SIG (TA SIG) is aimed at those interested in online assessment for both formative and summative purposes. The strong demand and success of the current Transforming Assessment series evidenced by growing membership and improving attendance has demonstrated the continuing need for a forum in the tertiary community to air and share issues around e-assessment. The ascilite community and its facilities are an ideal mechanism by which to foster this discussion and contribute to the dissemination of knowledge sharing on e-assessment.

There is a good synergy between the focus of Transforming Assessment webinars on e-Assessment and the mission of ascilite in furthering knowledge around the appropriate use of technology in education. Opportunities also exist for cross promotion given the alignment of missions and memberships of Transforming Assessment and ascilite.

The Transforming Assessment SIG is led by **Dr Matthew Hillier**, University of Queensland (now Monash University) and Professor **Geoffrey Crisp**, RMIT University. In 2015, the TA-SIG undertook a range of activities for ascilite members and others including:

- Facilitating a monthly Transforming Assessment webinar series promoted through the ascilite bulletin and elsewhere.
- The first 'TA local' trialled at UQ with 8 attendees.
- The Transforming Assessment website upgraded to provide self-sign up
- Significant growth in the SIG's mailing list and social media presence on LinkedIn, Facebook and Google+.

Monthly webinars will continue in 2016. These will remain as informal 'come as you please' activities so that ascilite members and others can engage with each other in a low stress environment. We believe this has been a strength of the webinar program over the years.

In 2016, the TA-SIG plans to introduce a 'TA Local' programme via organic growth as interested members form local discussion groups. TA Local leaders will be supported via the TA website through early access to presenter materials and having their name listed on the site.

2015 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Ascilite conducts a comprehensive **member survey** every two years however the scheduled 2014 survey was postponed until April 2015 to gauge member responses to significant new initiatives introduced in 2014. The purpose of our biennial member survey is to obtain feedback from members on the value of ascilite services, initiatives and related activities and the data collected from the survey is then used to inform the next cycle of strategic planning (2016 – 2019). Our 2015 survey had a total of **138 valid responses** which is 27% of the total membership. This number is up from 89 responses (18%) in 2012.

The survey results clearly indicate that **professional development** and **networking** are key drivers of membership in ascilite. It is encouraging to see that nearly all members (88%) are happy with their membership and agree that it represents **good value for money** (77%).

Most respondents take the view that the **ascilite Executive** is working in the best interests of members and the Society (78%), although slightly less than half of respondents appear comfortable with contacting a member of the Executive.

With respect to the **ascilite conference**, most respondents take the view that the peer review process is rigorous and fair (78%). The conference is viewed most favourably for providing:

- A valuable forum for research (80%)
- Practical ICT knowledge (89%)
- Networking opportunities (80%)

Overall, most respondents view the conference as a quality, worthwhile event (75%) although slightly fewer respondents view the **workshops** as valuable (62%).

The **annual conference** is perceived as the **most valuable** (55%) and most important (55%) program or service to respondents while it appears that many members are unfamiliar with two of ascilite's other important services; **CMALT Australasia** (41%) and the **Community Mentoring Programme** (26%). However, these two programmes are valued by those who are aware of them.

The **fortnightly bulletin** is another highly valued member service (58% suggest maintaining it as is).

Interestingly, the survey engagement data indicates that members have rarely engaged with quite a few of the available member services, particularly the mentoring programme (75%), conference workshops (60%), webinars (49%), ascilite awards (75%) or CMALT Australasia (84%). Clearly, this finding indicates that the Executive will need to look for better ways to communicate the features and benefits of the Society's wide range of services.

With respect to ascilite's new **social media presence**, respondents are not especially familiar or engaged with it, although Twitter ranks slightly ahead of Facebook and LinkedIn on most measures. It is hoped that more members will engage with our new social media presence as we progress and find more ways to make these communications channels of benefit to members.

AJET is viewed as a source of high quality research by most (76%), with its impact factor seen as the most important ranking element by just over half of respondents. Up to 40% of respondents would be interested in more ascilite events focused on AJET publishing.

Finally, 60% of respondents are likely or highly **likely to recommend ascilite membership** to colleagues while only 7% are unlikely to do so.

The complete membership survey will be made available to members on the ascilite website and a limited number of copies will be available at the AGM. The Executive thanks all ascilite members who responded and will be using the valuable feedback provided to inform **future strategic plans**.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Mark Nichols (ascilite Executive) is responsible for Regional Events support. ascilite sponsors and/or endorses events and activities that promote research, trends and uses of educational technologies in tertiary education. Sponsored regional events also ensure some kind of reciprocity for ascilite such as potential membership recruitment or income generation.

In 2015 ascilite supported the University of Victoria (Wellington) Unconference, a free event open to all tertiary educators in the Wellington region. Ascilite contributed $500 to The Unconference event where ascilite activities were promoted.

Ascilite also entered into agreements for cross event promotion and endorsement with Blended Learning 2015, and are currently negotiating with New Learning Space Design 2016, and with HERDSA.

Members are encouraged to seek ascilite endorsement and sponsorship for events in their region that meet the considerations listed on the ascilite website (https://ascilite.org/get-involved/regional-events/).

In 2016 it is hoped that the Unconference format might be promoted to ascilite members as the basis for accessible, efficient and effective local events that may be eligible for ascilite sponsorship.

RESEARCH

Strategic Goal

- Develop opportunities for ascilite members to contribute toward the advancement of research in educational technologies in tertiary education.

Strategic Objectives

- Extend research capability across and beyond the ascilite research community.

- Ensure a globally recognized journal of educational technology research in tertiary education.

- Maintain an annual conference of high international standing.

AJET

The **Australasian Journal of Educational Technology (AJET)** is led by a small team of dedicated Lead Editors supported by a team of Associate Editors, an AJET Management Committee and an Editorial Board. The Lead Editor team comprises Professor **Barney Dalgarno,** Professor **Sue Bennett** and Dr **Michael Henderson.** Michael replaced Gregor Kennedy as Lead Editor at the end of 2014.

In 2015, the Editorial team focused on migrating the journal hosting service, bedding down new editorial practices including establishing a system to publish early release articles, as well as maintaining editorial quality during 2015. AJET currently has 2876 registered subscribers of AJET (687 new in 2015) and with over 76,000 views this year already it is clearly an important and valued contribution to our members and the field more broadly.

EDITORIAL TEAM

One of the benefits of having a strong team of **Lead and Associate Editors** is that having some editors transition out of their roles and having new editors transition in can be handled with minimal disruption to the work of the journal. A huge thanks goes to the lead editors Professor Sue Bennett, Professor Barney Dalgarno and Dr Michael Henderson for their enormous contribution toward strengthening the quality, processes and activities of the journal.

At the end of 2015 **Professor Sue Bennett** steps down and an EOI, shortlisting and interview process for a new Lead Editor (with interview panel members representing the Editorial Board, lead Editor and AJET Management Committee) was completed in October with the selection of **Associate Professor Eva Heinrich** from Massey University who has accepted the three year post. Eva will bring fresh ideas while also ensuring the journal continues on its current path.

Our profound thanks must also go to Sue for her leadership and vision that have served AJET and ascilite so well. She will leave behind a much stronger journal and editorial team.

Please join us in also formally thanking the **Associate Editors** for their high quality editorial work that has in turn contributed toward our excellent and highly regarded ascilite journal AJET:

- Dr **Shirley Agostinho**, University of Wollongong, Australia
- Dr **Chwee Beng Lee**, University of Western Sydney, Australia
- Dr **Helen Farley**, Australian Digital Futures Institute, University of Southern Queensland, Australia
- Associate Professor **Eva Heinrich**, Massey University
- Dr **Petrea Redmond**, University of Southern Queensland, Australia
- Dr **Lina Markauskaite**, The University of Sydney, Australia
- Dr **Stephen Marshall**, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Professor **Timothy Teo**, University of Macau
- Dr **Thomas Cochrane**, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Thank you also to Professor **Timothy Teo** who has stepped down as Associate Editor this year having served since 2013. Welcome to Dr **Chwee Beng Lee**, Dr **Petrea Redmond,** and Dr **Stephen Marshall** who joined the team in 2015. Thank you also to the AJET copyeditors **Antonina Petrolito** and **Kayleen Wood** who have worked closely with the Lead Editors in ensuring the high standard of final proofs.

The **AJET management committee**, consisting of ascilite president Associate Professor **Caroline Steel**, ascilite Vice President Dr **Dominique Parrish**, and the three Lead Editors met regularly throughout 2015. Professor Barney Dalgarno and Dr Michael Henderson also shared representation of the AJET Editorial team on the ascilite Executive.

The AJET Editorial Board includes international Educational Technology researchers and leaders who have provided the ascilite journal with valuable guidance and support over the last year:

- Chen Chwen Jen, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia
- Grainne Conole, University of Leicester, United Kingdom
- Laura Czerniewicz, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Robert Fitzgerald, University of Canberra, Australia
- Cathy Gunn, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- John Hedberg, Macquarie University, Australia
- Jan Herrington, Murdoch University, Australia
- Gregor Kennedy, Melbourne University, Australia
- Paul Kirschner, Open University of the Netherlands
- Allison Littlejohn, Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom
- Lori Lockyer, Macquarie University, Australia
- Martin Oliver, Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom
- Meg O'Reilly, Southern Cross University, Australia

- Thomas Reeves, University of Georgia, USA
- Neil Selwyn, Monash University, Australia
- Gail Wilson, Southern Cross University, Australia
- Allan H.K. Yuen, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

SPECIAL ISSUES

The 2015 special issue, 'Educational Design Research (EDR) in Post-secondary Learning Environments' edited by Dr. **Theodore J. (TJ) Kopcha** (University of Georgia), Dr. **Matthew Schmidt** (University of Hawaii) and Dr. **Susan McKenney**, (Open University of the Netherlands & University of Twente) will be published in late 2015.

Following a call for Expressions of Interest for an editorial team for a 2016 special issue of AJET, submissions were rigorously reviewed by the AJET Management Committee. The successful submission was for a special issue focusing on the intersection of neuroscience, cognitive science and educational technology, which will be edited by Dr **Jason Lodge** (University of Melbourne), Professor **Gregor Kennedy** (University of Melbourne) and Professor **Lori Lockyer** (Macquarie University). The call for papers for this special issue is expected to be open in late 2015 with the special issue published in the latter half of 2016.

AJET BIBLIOMETRICS

In order to provide a complete annual picture, bibliometrics for 2014 (rather than 2015) have been provided and these are compared to 2013 figures (Table 3). Submissions for 2014 were slightly down on 2013 possibly due to authors gradually becoming aware of the slightly reduced scope of the journal with school sector research no longer being within scope. Submissions in 2015 have grown again, with 424 received to September. The percentage of articles found to be of a quality sufficient to send for peer review and the percentage accepted at peer review were similar from 2013 to 2014 indicating that the quality of submissions is relatively stable.

Table 3: AJET Bibliometrics for 2013 and 2014

2013 AJET Bibliometrics	2013	2014
Total submissions	469	438

Declined at editorial screening	370 (79%)	336 (77%)
Peer reviewed	99 (21%)	102 (23%)
Declined at peer review (as a percentage of peer reviewed)	52 (53%)	49 (48%)
Accepted (as a percentage of peer reviewed)	47 (47%)	39 (38%)*
Declined (either at editorial screening or following peer review as a percentage of total submissions)	409 (87%)	384 (88%)
Accepted (as a percentage of total submissions)	47 (10%)	39 (9%)
JCR 5 year Impact Factor	1.198	1.006
JCR journal ranking in Education category based on 5 year Impact Factor	80/219	131/224
Google Scholar h5 index	30	33
Google Scholar h5 ranking within Educational Technology category	8/20	8/20
Views to date of articles published during given year	179,099**	76,556

*Note that 14 of the 2014 submissions are still under review. ** A significant number of past issues were moved into the OJS system in 2013 impacting on Views.*

2014 CONFERENCE

The 31st annual ascilite conference **Rhetoric and Reality: Critical perspectives on educational technology** was held in Dunedin, New Zealand on November 23 – 26, 2014 and hosted by Otago Polytechnic and the University of Otago. Many participants commented on the exceedingly high

calibre of the papers, presentations and social activities. The Steampunk theme for the conference dinner at the Dunedin Town Hall was highly memorable for all involved.

The conference returned a profit of AUD$69,872.17 to ascilite which contributes toward the operations of ascilite (including the Secretariat and AJET). The ascilite Executive and community sincerely wishes to thank and acknowledge the incredible creativity, coordination and efforts made by **Jenny McDonald** (convenor) and **Bronwyn Hegarty** (convenor) **Sally Boult** (Professional Conference Organiser) and **organising Committee Members** Sally Pairman, Nicky Hunt, Veronique Olin, Swee-Kin Loke, Gala Hesson, Adon Moskal, Sarah Gallagher, Joanne Smith, Candi Young, Emma Tumilty, Ben Daniel and Carole Scott.

2015 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The ascilite2015 conference is being hosted by Curtin University with an organising committee led by **Torsten Reiners,** with members **Brian von Konsky, Vanessa Chang**, and **David Gibson**, and ascilite Executive members **Caroline Steel**, **Mark Nichols**, **Dominique Parrish** and ascilite Secretariat **Andre Colbert.** Outstanding organisational support has been provided by **Karen Clarke** and **Tammie Burke** along with design and website content leadership from **Katy Scott**.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

One hundred and ninety three full papers were submitted for review this year. A combined total of one hundred and sixteen full and concise papers, and nine Sharing Practice sessions were accepted with one hundred and forty seven presentations being scheduled including posters and workshops. The Open Conference System (OCS) was used for submissions and review processes.

A summary of paper submissions, acceptances and rejections is given in Table 4. Please note these numbers are provisional and that we are in the final stages of acceptance at the time of writing. The acceptance rate is thus indicative only at this stage.

Table 4: Summary of paper submissions and acceptances

Type	Sub	Accept	Reject

Full	47	34	11
Concise	69	56	12
Poster	23	22	1
Shared Practice	9	7	2
Workshops	15	6	9
TOTALS	**163**	**125**	**35**

An interesting and scholarly range of papers have been received and are distributed across the conference themes. The variety of presentations should be of great interest to the conference delegates. The tentative allocation of full and concise papers and Sharing Practice presentations within the conference themes is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Allocation of papers in conference themes

Theme	Concise Papers	Full Papers	Total
Global Challenges	23	17	40
Innovations	20	15	35
Analytics & Visualization	4	14	17
Panels and Other	20		20
TOTALS	**57**	**46**	**112**

SPONSORS

This year, **Karen Clarke** of the Curtin Business School is working closely on sponsorship with **Caroline Steel** (ascilite President) and in collaboration with the conference organising committee. A mix of regular and new sponsors are partnering with us for ascilite 2015 with further negotiations still underway (Table 6).

Table 6: 2015 conference sponsors & exhibitors

Sponsor	Type
Instructure	Diamond Sponsor
Echo 360	Silver Sponsor (Barista Lounge)
Desire 2 Learn/ Brightspace	Bronze
Blackboard	In progress
Curtin University- Teaching and Learning	Delegate Name Badge and Lanyard

REGISTRATION

As of 14 October, registrations for ascilite2015 were 181. Registrations are expected to increase with the extension of the Early Bird rates to 23 October. Marketing continues via the ascilite bulletin, twitter and other professional networks.

2016 CONFERENCE

Negotiations are currently underway for hosting the ascilite2016 conference. We look forward to announcing the hosts and conference organising team at the ascilite2015 conference.

SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Goal

- Ensure ascilite's future sustainability.

Strategic Objectives

- Maintain best practices and procedures in the area of financial and administrative management of the Society.

- Maintain a strong financial position and outlook for the Society.

- Maintain transparent financial records.

- Conduct the business of the Society in accordance with the ascilite Constitution.

MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

As of 15 October 2015, ascilite had 559 members in total which is a decrease of 38 members over the total of 588 members at this time last year (Table 7). Membership is expected to be bolstered as more joining members register for the ascilite conference in late October and November. As with previous years, student numbers remain low.

Table 7: Members by Category

MEMBERS BY CATEGORY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Individuals	386	383	397	335	309	301
Institutional Memberships	50	68	90	173	244	221

MEMBERS BY CATEGORY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Students	13	11	17	25	14	19
Life Members*	8	9	10	10	10	11
Fellows*	4	5	6	7	7	4
Affiliates*	13	3	3	4	4	3
Total Members	**474**	**479**	**523**	**554**	**588**	**559**

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

In 2015, ascilite had 19 institutional memberships which is a slight change from 18 in 2014. Three new institutions joined ascilite in 2015 while two were unable to renew (Table 8).

The number of individuals under institutional membership decreased slightly from 244 individuals in 2014 to 221 in 2015.

A clear shift from individual memberships to institutional membership was first discernible in 2013 and this trend seems to have stabilized in 2015.

Table 8: Institutional Memberships

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	2013	2014	2015
Manukau Institute of Technology		10	12
Charles Darwin University	10	10	10
University of Southern Queensland	11	20	20

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	2013	2014	2015
Massey University	21	19	18
Queensland University of Technology	10	10	9
University of Wollongong (SMAH)	20	20	20
University of Wollongong (FSS)	10	10	10
Deakin University		10	7
Open Polytechnic of New Zealand		10	6
UTS Insearch		10	10
Monash University		9	4
Curtin University		10	20
University of New England		20	20
Otago Polytechnic (NZ)		28	9
University of Notre Dame		10	10
La Trobe University		10	9
Southern Cross University			7
University of the South Pacific			10

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	2013	2014	2015
University of Western Australia			10
Australian National University	52		
Macquarie University	19	20	
Open Universities Australia	10	8	
Universiti Sains Malaysia	10		
TOTALS	173	244	221

MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY

Membership by country (Table 9) shows relative stability in Australian and New Zealand membership with 10 new members in our Asia-Pacific Region from Fiji. Membership from South and North-East Asia is still quite low as is ascilite representation in the UK, Europe and North America.

Table 9: Members by Country

MEMBERS BY COUNTRY	2013	2014	2015
Australia*	418	427	426
New Zealand	101	117	102
Fiji	0	0	10
Singapore	6	6	7
UK	6	9	5

MEMBERS BY COUNTRY	2013	2014	2015
Japan	2	2	3
Canada/USA	5	6	2
Hong Kong	1	4	2
Europe/UK	7	9	2
Other	8	8	2
Total Members	**554**	**588**	**559**

FINANCIAL POSITION

While ascilite continues to maintain fiscal year reports (June to July) that are reconciled each year by the Society's chartered accountants, the Executive also now uses **a calendar year budget planning cycle** to establish, monitor and report to members its performance based on calendar year activities. The Treasurer has a constitutional obligation to provide both **fiscal year** reports and a **calendar year budget** to members.

In the fiscal year report 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, ascilite operated with a profit of $46,460 on an income of $132,483. In the previous year ascilite made a profit of $83,170 on an income of $173,555. The reduction in income across the two financial periods of $41,072 is mostly attributable to a reduction in membership subscriptions ($18,075), conference surpluses ($12,513) and the one time income received for the NATA project indicated as part of "other revenue" ($10,000). Note however that the financial year ended 30 June 2014 conference surplus amounts included $33,274 in revenues from the 2013 year. The conference committee of 2014 is to be congratulated for its significant surplus to the Society.

Secretariat costs and **AJET journal expenses** remain the **two highest categories of expenditure**. As noted in last year's report the Secretariat provides vital operational support, and for the last two years the amount has remained roughly consistent. The journal amounts include some $4,294 one-off costs related to electronic archiving. Annual PKP (hosting) costs of $1,769.69, CrossRef expenses of $358.18 and editorial costs of between $1,360 and $2,045.45 per issue make up the balance. AJET expenditure is likely to remain at the ~$14k level on an annual basis.

There was a reduction of expenses by $4,363 across the financial year ended 2014 and 2015 however some variability across expenses lies behind this result. The Auditor's Remuneration figure for the year ended 30 June 2015 includes an audit amount of $1,200. With changes made to the ascilite Constitution, approved during the 2014 AGM and later confirmed, an annual audit is no longer required. Accounting costs for the financial statements presented to members in 2015 is $1,870, which will be included in next year's statement.

Finally, completion of ICT project expenditure and Conference/seminar cost reductions are the result of a project coming to completion, and a change in cost allocations.

Ascilite's total net assets at 30 June 2015 were $336,398 up from $294,300 the financial year ending 30 June 2014. The executive are looking to transfer funds from the bank into term deposit, though it should be noted that as at 26 July 2015 $260,990.73 were in an NAB Maximiser account and not a cheque account. Transfer of Maximiser funds into a second term deposit was approved by the Executive earlier in 2015. The credit card debt in the financial statement is not significant, as it is normal practice for the credit card to be fully repaid once the statement has been reconciled.

The financial year ended 30 June 2015 leaves ascilite with Members' Funds of $332,673, up from $286,213 from the previous financial year.

A copy of the financial statements and 2016 budget will be distributed with hard copies of the President's Report at the AGM for approval.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The work of the ascilite Secretariat is overseen by the Executive Officer (**Dominique Parrish**) and the current Secretariat, **Andre Colbert**, has held the position of Secretariat since May 2012. Andre has been instrumental in working behind the scenes to upgrade ascilite's IT infrastructure again this year with a focus on enhancing ascilite's social media presence and consistent updating of the ascilite website, particularly the "what's happening" and "latest news" sections. Testing is currently underway for a new membership management system to be introduced in early 2016 that will re-instate a member's only area.

In 2015, Andre continued to undertake the following activities which define the Secretariat's role:

- Increase the Society's social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin and Youtube

- Further development of the conference sub-domain system and Open Conference System (OCS) for the use of conference hosts

- Respond to on-going individual and institutional membership enquiries by email and phone and maintain proformas for membership and online payments

- Receive and process membership dues and other payments and process these in MYOB, updating member profiles accordingly

- Manage ascilite's interim online payment system for member payments

- Manage and reconcile the ascilite accounts in MYOB and produced BAS statements and financial reports

- Manage ascilite budget related reporting through monthly updates of ascilite's Profit & Loss statements.

- Support the ascilite Executive Committee by administering and coordinating online executive and senior executive meetings

- Organize documentation and distribute executive and senior executive meeting agendas and pre-meeting documentation.

- Produce reports and minutes for the Executive and supported the various executive portfolios and action list system.

- Produce and disseminate ascilite fortnightly bulletins and special announcements.

- Work collaboratively with the Executive to implement strategic and operational plans.

- Manage Constitution requirements in regard to the Annual General Meeting, auditing of financial records and election of executive members.

- Work collaboratively with the AJET editorial team in responding to author and reviewer enquiries and to resolve technical issues.