

FROM THE EDITOR

Read Gilgen

I'll spare you all the self-congratulatory comments, except to say that I and the Journal Committee were heartened by your response to the first issue of the new *IALL Journal of Language Learning Technologies*. We think we are headed in the right direction and we welcome your comments in that regard.

Before commenting on the contents of this issue, let me make some observations on our profession. First, it seems quite evident that we are a busy lot, often juggling administrative and academic pursuits on budgets that don't usually meet our needs. Second, while some of us are under the publish-or-perish gun, most are not. These two factors contribute to a problem as well as a solution.

Few of us seem to have time to carry on extensive research related to language learning technology, much less to write about it. Further, we often find ourselves picking up the *IALL Journal*, as well as other professional journals, skimming through the contents, reading a short note, perhaps, and then setting it aside, intending to get to it later. We rarely do. Those are the problems.

The solutions come from changing our perception of what publishing is all about, and from adapting to the realities of our profession.

First, if we in IALL are to publish, it is not because we have to, but because we want to share what we have learned with our colleagues. That is what publishing should be about. Nevertheless, unfortunately there are volumes filled with articles that no one wants to read by people who had to write something

in order to meet tenure requirements. On the other hand, we in our profession have the unique opportunity of writing things that will get read because they are timely and of interest.

Second, we need not write extensive articles. Instead we can focus on the shorter "notes" that are relatively easy to write, can be quite timely, and more likely will be read by our busy colleagues. That is not to say that we don't encourage longer studies; indeed we do. But we also suggest that many of you have information and experience that would be of great value to the rest of us if only you would jot it down.

Now, on to the contents of this issue. Bruce Parkhurst and Laura Carpenter of Boston University have prepared an excellent summary of their presentation on copyright at IALL '89. We encourage others of you to share your experiences and wisdom on this complex issue. There is also a report by our President, Ruth Trometer, on the summer IALL board meetings. Also, for the first time in many years, we are publishing a complete list of the IALL members, both alphabetically and by region. Along with this we are publishing a summary by Robin Lawrason (Temple University and IALL Treasurer) of the results of the IALL survey that was conducted in 1988.

Let me state again how critical it is for each of you to consider the value of your experience and the importance of sharing that with others. Consider this a personal invitation to write something for the *IALL Journal*. I look forward to receiving your manuscripts.



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