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Editor's Introduction

Peg Ertmer

Purdue University, pertmer@purdue.edu

Christopher Mong

Purdue University, cmong@purdue.edu

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Introduction

Peggy A. Ertmer

Welcome to Issue 3(2) of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Problem-based Learning*. I'd like to take this opportunity to update our readers regarding the state of the journal and our thoughts about future directions.

First of all, I'd like to formally welcome the new director of Purdue University Press, Charles Watkinson, to our journal (and to Purdue and the Midwest). Charles is currently the director of publications at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Prior to this, he was General Manager, David Brown Book Company, and later Director of Business Development, Oxbow Books, Oxford, UK. Charles's focus will be on helping Purdue University Press identify and establish a niche within the scholarly publication field by promoting innovative and creative methods for the dissemination of research findings, and forming new collaborations within the University community and beyond. This bodes extremely well for all of us at IJPBL. Charles begins his tenure at Purdue on September 1. Welcome aboard, Charles!

Now, for a little history lesson: Since our inception (2006) we have published over 20 high quality pieces addressing issues related to implementing PBL in a variety of educational contexts. Our journal has been open access nearly all of that time and, as a result, we've had over 38,000 full-text downloads to date, with over 15,000 so far this year. During this time, we've also received over 200 submissions and have enlisted the services of over 70 different reviewers. Our average acceptance rate is running between 10 and 20%. Our current list of reviewers (recently updated) includes 71 reviewers.

Through the last three years, we've streamlined our editorial process in an effort to better communicate with our authors and reviewers and, ultimately, return editorial decisions more efficiently. All of our submissions and reviews are submitted online. Additionally, all editorial decisions and resulting documents are stored in the system. Our review process is also almost completely automatic, including inviting potential reviewers and sending reminders, which has dramatically increased our response rate and turn-around time. In fact, 2008 marked our lowest average turn-around time at 76 days from manuscript submission to the receipt of three reviews and an editorial decision.

So what's next for IJPBL? Building on the success of our first special issue dedicated to the efficacy of PBL, we are currently in the planning stages of a second special issue on engineering education (due out next year), to be guest edited by Johannes Strobel and Brent Jesiek in the College of Engineering at Purdue. In addition, we plan to apply for inclusion in the various citation databases and to reach out to more authors across more disciplines.

Finally, I'd like to extend a formal welcome to our new board members (Nada Dabbagh, Woei Hung, and Johannes Strobel) and book review editors (Johannes Strobel and Sandra Williamson). And, of course, I offer continued gratitude to our continuing board members: George Bodner, Cindy Hmelo-Silver, and David Jonassen. We look forward to working with all of them (and with all of you) as we move forward. If you haven't seen our website, please visit <http://www.ijpbl.org>.