
Editorial: Introducing a new international journal about using social media and other technologies for teaching and learning

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Social Media and Interactive Learning Environments (IJSMILE)*. It is a great pleasure for me to write the first editorial as it marks the milestone of an exciting and challenging journey of a newborn journal. As indicated by its title, the purpose of the journal is two-fold: first to provide a new forum for discussing and disseminating knowledge relating to using social media (e.g., Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.) and other Web 2.0 tools (e.g., Weblog, Wiki, Diigo, Edmodo, etc.) to support formal and informal learning; this also includes the use of emerging technologies either in hardware formats like iPad or software platforms like Moodle. Second, to demonstrate how these media and/or technologies can be integrated into online learning environments that promote social interaction, collaboration, and knowledge construction in the new information era.

The journal publishes four issues a year, of which three will be regular issues and one will be a special issue. The regular issues will cover topics like, in addition to the above mentioned, computer-supported collaborative learning, ubiquitous and mobile learning, online course design and development, online learning and life-long learning, and learning support and management systems. The special issue will focus on most recent, critical, or controversial topics on using technologies for teaching and learning. The journal invites submissions in the form of research articles, short essays, case studies, pedagogical reflections, personal viewpoints, and book reviews.

You will see seven invited articles in this inaugural issue. They are from different countries. Two are from the Netherlands, another two from the USA, one from Spain, one from South Africa, and the remaining one from China. Topics discussed are also wide-ranging. The first article (by Tjeerd Plomp) is about 21st century skills in the new information society. The following four articles (by Paul Kawachi; Narend Baijnath; Abelardo Pardo; Ronald J.J. Voorn and Piet A.M. Kommers) are related to social media for learning in various contexts and the last two are concerned about teachers' TPACK

knowledge (by Ping Gao and Gerald M. Mager), and quality of online education (by Xiaopeng Ni, Salvatore Diomedede and Sarah Rutland).

Producing a journal like this requires collective effort, and it will not be possible without the contributions of the authors and the help and support of readers like you. The journal is honoured and pleased to have some well-known academics from around the world to sit on the advisory board. They accepted my invitation unreservedly, in particular, emeritus professor Tjeerd Plomp, who has already retired, but agrees to play his advisory role and make scholarly contribution to this journal.

My special thanks also go to Professor Paul Kawachi. When I approached him to recommend some well-known professors from South America and Africa for help, he did not only provide me with the names but also invited them personally to write for this issue. His effort has given this journal a good head start.

Like most academic journals, the journal also has an editorial board to help maintain the quality and uphold the professionalism of the papers that are published. It comprises members from prestigious universities and academic institutions. Many of them are experienced writers, whom have agreed to give their time to make the journal a success. Their commitment and help in reviewing articles will undoubtedly keep the journal growing well into the future.

The strong support from the advisory and editorial boards' members has helped the journal make a remarkable step forward. But being a new journal, there is still room for the journal to establish itself by attracting potential authors. Here, I would like to invite all academics and practitioners to submit manuscripts either in short essays or more extensive research articles to the journal. Through readership, I am sure your valuable knowledge will be beneficial to a wider audience and those who share a common interest.

As editor-in-chief, I also welcome your comments and suggestions. It is only through your feedback that we know how to improve.