

Greetings Dear readers of TOJDE,

First of all I would like to congratulate your's new year and happy Christmas from Turkey and TOJDE and its valuable team. The year of 2005, welcome for all of us.

Before we get started, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our two new editors to TOJDE family is honored to have you join us.

I am pleased to inform you that Volume 6, Number: 1 is appearing on your screen now which is addressed <http://tojde.anadolu.edu.tr>. In January 2005, TOJDE is congratulating its 5th Anniversary in its publishing life. It means very important value for Turkish academics' life from many points of view.

Very much thanks to all of you once more that we met with you 17th time, since January 2000. As we announced in Volume: 5 Number: 4 issue, January 2005 issue of TOJDE would published on the subject that "Use of Distance Education and e-Learning within the European Union Member States". And we did it proudly, under patronage of this issue's guest editor; Steve Wheeler.

In addition, I would like to announce for all you, that Volume: 6 Number: 3 will publish as the 3rd Special Theme Issue of TOJDE in July 2005. This issue will be prepare by Dr. Gilly Salmon from University of Leicester in the UK, Dr. Dursun Gokdag from the Anadolu University, Turkey, and me as a guest editors, on the subject "Use of Distance Education and e-Learning within the Middle East Countries"

Preparing this special issue with Dr. Steve, took more than 6 months, from the beginning to the arrival period to the on your screen. This period was shorter than the first special issue publishing in 2004. Of course this success belongs to this issue's guest editor who I will explain a bit details him belove and what did he do during in his period.

A short story of this special issue is here if you are interested in. The first idea and suggestion came from me to Steve Wheeler, who is from University of Plymouth, the U.K. I asked him via e-mail if he would accept guest editorship responsibility for this 2nd Special Theme Issue of TOJDE for publishing on January 2005 as Volume 6 Number 1. Of course before writing to him, I had shared my suggestion with the Steering Committee of TOJDE for the reason that TOJDE's first special issue (I mean, Volume: 5 Number: 3) was so successful which anyone could not imagine. And than a week after, I received positive reply from Steve and we decided to prepare this special issue as Volume: 6 Number: 1 for publishing in January 2005. And so, this special issue process has been begun.

We started initial contacts about "to establish draft text of call for papers" with my dear colleague Steve who were well known at the distance education field and member of TOJDE's editorial board since 2000 January. Later on, abstracts of the manuscripts had arrived to him on determined deadline. A total of nearly sixteen abstracts were submitted. Some of them had been withdrawned by the some reasons which I could not want to declare them details here. At the end, 9 manuscripts were accepted for publishing in 2nd Special issues of TOJDE.

During this process, Steve served very healthy communication between the authors. In addition, he spared his valuable time, beside his other academic activities and responsibilities in the name of his university, his lectures, and researches, duties for distance education field and for TOJDE as well.

Each article in this issue has therefore been read carefully by Steve; by two anonymous referees which selected by me. This process has maximized the quality and rigour of the published articles.

9 articles published in 2nd Special Theme Issue which written by 14 authors, where from the UK, USA, Turkey, Slovenia and Belgium. The fact that all but except two of the articles hails which one of them joint study from UK-USA and the second one from United State recalls the theme issue'. Scott Walker's article along with Steve Wheeler and Shannon Amiotte's paper as both deal with issues associated with the United State and how this can be applied to EU strategies.

In addition to the articles, "notes for editor" books review and news, sections are still keeping in this issue too. "Anadolu University's Articles" and "TOJDE's Links Are Getting More" still kept in this issue. As a new subject, TOJDE's links are increasing day by day in the electronic medium.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Steve Wheeler, for myself and in the name of my University and also for journal of TOJDE. I strongly believe that experience gained on this first special issue would encourage us and other interested colleagues in the field in the near future. Below you will find short biodata on my valuable guest editor, Dr. Steve Wheeler.



Steve Wheeler

He worked for 5 years in the Educational Technology department at the [College of St Mark and St John](#), a teacher training college in Plymouth, before joining the National Health Service in 1981. From 1981 to 1995 he set up and managed the audio visual and information technology services within the Plymouth and Cornwall Schools of Nursing (now incorporated into the University of Plymouth Institute of Health Studies). In 1996 he joined the European funded RATIO project (Rural Area Training and Information Opportunities) as Training Manager. His project team set up a network of 39 centres across the South West peninsula of England which were used by local businesses to access telematic training courses and information products.

In 1998 he joined the [Faculty of Education](#) at the University of Plymouth, where he is now based in the Continuing Professional Development Department. he teaches on a range of under graduate and post graduate courses including the Certificate in Education, Post Graduate Certificate in Education, BA Post 16 Training and the Integrated Masters Programme (IMP) where he runs an online course in [Educational ICT theory](#) and courses in distance education theory and practice.

His Academic Organisation Membership are;

- Graduate Member British Psychological Society (1995-Present)
- National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) (1998-Present)
- Member of IFIP Technical Committee Working Group 3.6 (Distance Education) (2000-Present)
- Member of the European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN) (2004-present)
- Member of the Association of Learning Technologies (ALT) (2004-present)

His International Journal Editorial Board Membership are;

- Editorial Board, *Quarterly Review of Distance Education* (1999-Present)
- Editorial Board, *Turkish On-Line Journal of Distance Education* (1999-Present)
- International Editor, *Quarterly Review of Distance Education* (2001-Present)
- Consulting Editor and Reviewer, *International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning* (2001-Present)
- Advisory Board, *International Journal of Intelligent Computing and Information Science* (2001-Present)
- Reviewer, *Journal of Educational Media* (2002-Present)

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Dear readers, you can reach us online either directly at <http://tojde.anadolu.edu.tr> or by visiting Anadolu University homepage at <http://www.anadolu.edu.tr> from English version. To receive further information and to send your recommendations and remarks, or to submit articles for consideration, please contact TOJDE Secretariat at the below address or e-mail us to tojde@anadolu.edu.tr

Happy readings

Hope to stay in touch and lets meet in next Issue, in April 2005.

**Cordially,
January 2005**

Prof. Dr. Ugur Demiray

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