

Dear TOJDE Readers,

We all together arrived fifth volume of TOJDE in 2004. This volume is presenting with some some technical development and richer content to its readers.

I am pleased to inform you that Vol.:5, Number:1 issue of The Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education-TOJDE has been issued on the web site <http://tojde.anadolu.edu.tr> TOJDE is meeting with its readers for the 13th time, since 2000 January.

First of all I would like to inform you that Volume 5 Number:3 will publish as a theme issue of TOJDE. This issue will be prepare by Patrick Alan DANAHER and Fons NOUWENS as a guest co-editors, from Learning, Evaluation, Innovation and Development (LEID) Centre, within the Division of Teaching and Learning Services, at Central Queensland University (CQU) in Australia. You will find detailed knowledge in "[News Section](#)" of this issue.

In this issue, has been given place to one note for editor, nine articles, four book reviews, eight news, and as being before three links deal with Anadolu University take place in the literature and introducing two institution dealt with De application. This issue's articles came from Canada, India, Malaysia, North Cyprus Turkish Republic, Turkey and USA (according to alphabetical order).

Spreadsheet Applications: Prototyping an Innovative Blended Course writer to TOJDE's editor-in-Chief as an note for editor by J. Howard BAKER, Assist. Prof. Dr., from University of Louisiana Monroe, U.S.A. Baker indicates in his note that "with the change of the course to a blended format, new teaching options and technologies open up. For instance, students will be allowed to schedule private sittings for exams rather than having to take exams in an assigned class period. Training assignments via the Web will now be done at the student's convenience, so long as they are completed by a cutoff date. Students may use on-line assessment tools to evaluate their progress at any time."

The first article from Malaysia on "A Study of Quality Assurance Practices in the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)" by Helen KHOO Chooi and Rozhan M. IDRUS., Universiti Sains Malaysia. This article looks at the quality assurance practices amongst three (3) groups of staff in the School of Distance Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia, i.e. lecturers, resident tutors and support staff. 9 dimensions of the Quality Assurance Practices i.e. Staff Development, Planning, Work Process, Team Work, Prioritise Customers, Performance Evaluation, System For Sending Of Learning Materials, System For Receiving Of Assignments From Students and Management of Students' Records are identified in this study.

The second article is dealt with "Design Principles for Online Instruction: A New Kind of Classroom" written by Neil TOPORSKI, Rowan University and Tim FOLEY, Lehigh University, U.S.A. Their article point out that Unlike the traditional classroom, courses are web-based and distributed from a distance, using an assortment of synchronous and asynchronous computer technologies -and offered anywhere and anytime. In this way, online learning is different from the classic DE model by encouraging decentralized and collaborative learning environments.

The third article arrived from India. It is entitled as "Learner-Institute Interaction and Third World Dilemmas" by Surabhi BHARATI. Urabhi summarizes his paper as "The main thrust of

this study is (a) towards discovering factors which influence learner-institute interaction, (b) to see how these factors are related to a sense of 'isolation' felt by the distance learner, and (c) how we (the institute) could remove some of them by establishing some kind of learner-institute interaction which is unique to our region and culture. This is done in the context of an in-service, distance education teacher training programme, which reveals certain emotional and psychological demands of adult learners expressing primarily the increasing need for a learner-institute interaction. This is a somewhat dangerous territory to enter as these demands of the distance learner are personal and raise questions about values and beliefs that are not always subject to empirical inquiry or offer definitive answers. The paper draws on experience from developing, delivering and tutoring courses with students from India and neighboring countries."

The fourth and ninth articles from Canakkale University, Canakkale, Turkey. The fourth one is focused on "Factors Affecting the Application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Distance Education", written by Dr. Salih USUN. Salih's study aims to determine the factors and problems associated with the growth of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in developing countries and examine the Turkish distance Education System from the point of the factors such as cultural; political; economic; technological. The study, firstly, introduces some applications and problems of instructional technology and distance education in some developed countries and Turkey as a developing country; then examines Turkish distance education system, Open Education Faculty (OEF), from the points of factors such as cultural, political, economic and technological.

The fifth article is dealt with Opportunity Cost of Distance Education sent by Recep TURKOGLU, from Hacettepe University, TURKEY. His article mentions that opportunity cost (OC) of distance education (DE) has been examined. In addition, factors, which affect OC of DE, have been investigated according to institute, which develops DE and puts it into practice, student/parent whose target of DE program is and teacher who works for DE program.

The sixth article is again from Malaysia. An article is entitled as "Improving Distance Courses: Understanding Teacher Trainees and their Learning Styles for the design of Teacher Training Courses and Materials at a Distance". This article is a joint study, which is completed by Hisham DZAKIRIA, Asmah Abdul RAZAK, Abdul Halim MOHAMME, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia. In their article they resonate that the idea and belief that if attempts are made to match learning styles of DTTs and andragogy with content to be learned, distance teacher educators (DTEs) and instructors can develop better instructional materials with greater prospects of success. Getting to know and understand the teacher trainees and their learning process involved must first be addressed to facilitate the diverse needs of the Malaysian teacher trainees.

The seventh article is an evaluation of the online journal of TOJET, which published by Sakarya University. This evaluation is realized by Aytakin ISMAN, Fahme DABAJ and Agah GUMUS, Eastern Mediterranean University from North Cyprus Republic of Turkey. Their paper is entitled as "Publishing: The Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology (TOJET)". The main goal of this study is to examine TOJET (The Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology) in terms of concept, ethical values, goals, mission statement, publishing values, interest field, indexing, evaluation publishing activities, and visitor's profile. There are four parts of this presentation, starting by explaining the online journal and its benefits, continuing by the structure of TOJET, then talking about the effects of the journal on the global education, and finally, the expected future of TOJET.

The eighth article from Canada. "Institutional Support for the Virtual Professor" Tom JONES, Centre for Distance Education, Athabasca University, CANADA. Jones indicates his thinking as "Academics who hold positions at single-mode, distance education institutions are presently being hampered by an adherence to a long-standing set of protocols (specific office location, face-to-face meetings) that were put in place when the conventional post-secondary was the norm. With the advent of a powerful merging of personal computers and the internet, a shift from those protocols to one of support for the virtual professor is in the offing, to the benefit of both the professoriate and the student. A key factor in this shift is the degree and quality of institutional support that will allow these changes to take place. This paper focuses on a number of the key factors that will have to be addressed if this new type of distance education academic is to function effectively".

The last and ninth article again from Turkey. Assoc. Prof. Dinçay KOKSAL wrote on "Assesing Teachers' Testing Skills in ELT and Enhancing Their Professional Development Through Distance Learning on The Net" in his article from Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, TURKEY. He summarized that teachers of English do to test their learners with specific test samples used to assess students' language skills, and suggests practical solutions on this issue. It also proposes a distance learning course in 'testing and assessment' for teachers' professional development on the Internet, which will enable them to exchange ideas and find solutions to problems.

In this issue given a 3 book reviews. The first book review is about an electronic book written by Morten Flate PAULSEN on "E-book about E-learning Online Education and Learning Management Systems-Global E-learning in a Scandinavian Perspective". It is reviewed by me. The book is based on practical and long-term knowledge of the field, thorough personal experience, and research to back up the many pointed statements. The author, Dr. Morten Flate Paulsen, is the Director of Development at the NKI Internet College. He has worked within the field of online education since 1985. He became one of the very first European online educators when he initiated the development of the EKKO computer conferencing system in 1986 and taught his first online course the same year. Since then, he has worked continuously in the field, participated in many European research projects, and published a number of books, articles and reports about the topic. He became Doctor of Education at Pennsylvania State University in 1998. In 2003, he was re-appointed Adjunct Professor for a second three-year period, at the Athabasca University, Centre for Distance Education. In this book he combines theoretical articles with popular anecdotes and personal experiences. This untraditional approach has made the book comprehensive, interesting and enjoyable.

This book is intended for an international audience with an interest in education and the Internet. It will be of special value to students, teachers, course designers, administrators, decision makers and educational officers in public and private sectors. The book discusses major developments in online education, and provides illustrating examples from the author's Scandinavian and international research. It includes articles outlining a theory of online education, teaching techniques, learning management systems, recommendations for decision makers and terminology.

The book, which is entitled as Distance Learning Technologies: Issues, Trends and Opportunities. The book edited by Linda Lau and reviewed by Professor Ali SIMSEK, Anadolu University, Eskisehir-Turkey. This edited book is published by Idea Group Publishing. The book has sixteen chapters, in addition to an author biography and an index. Besides the editor, total of 24 authors have contributed to the book. These authors are from different countries, academic backgrounds, and institutions. Although a big majority of the authors are from USA, there are several authors from Canada and Egypt. The authors represent a

variety of universities, private companies, and military institutions. Most of them have strong professional backgrounds, which help them address the issues both from theoretical and practical perspectives.

The third book review is arrived from India. Name of the book is "Staff and Educational Development Case Studies, Experiences & Practice", edited by Helen EDWARDS, David BAUME, Graham WEBB and reviewed by S K PULIST from India. I would like to thank to Pulist here for supporting book review section of TOJDE since its beginning as being bokk reviewer of TOJDE. This time he emphasized that chapters, which are presented in the book are subjective narratives of the experiences gained by the authors themselves pertaining to the systems, which they have once been a part of. Though the experiences of the authors imbibe in them rich knowledge and present a way out to tackle different difficult situations in an institution of higher education, while providing facts and figures, the authors go philosophical quite often, which distracts the focal point and deviates the attention of the readers towards petty things. Overall, the volume is a good compilation of experiences in staff and educational development at higher education institution level.

The fourth and the last book review is done by me again on "The Distance Education Evolution: Issues and Case Studies" edited by Dominique MONOLESCU, Catherine SCHIFTER, Linda GREENWOOD. Book is published in September, 2003 and printed by Information Science Publishing. The book contains 12 chapters. The Distance Education Evolution: Case Studies addresses issues regarding the development and design of online courses, and the implementation and evaluation of an online learning program. Several chapters include design strategies for online courses that range from the specific to the universal. Many authors address pedagogical issues from both a theoretical and applied perspective. This diverse compilation of contributions by Temple University administrators and faculty gives a comprehensive overview of the distance education experience that can serve as a guide to others interested in providing quality distance education.

Some columns in the News section of TOJDE are still keep in this issue too. For example, dealing with some Tojde dealers and readers' feelings and their expressions which had been sent to me. This Column will be carried on the following issues in due to. Since your feelings and expressions are always welcome to the TOJDE's Editorial. We believe that you will do your best expression on your feelings and opinions about TOJDE in due course. Columns which are entitled "Advertising in the TOJDE", "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.

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> 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 and very happy 2004.

Hope to stay in touch and meet in next issue on April 2004.

Cordially Yours,

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