

Dear TOJDE Readers,

Welcome to the Volume 17, Number 1 of TOJDE,

There are 7 articles and 2 book reviews in this first issue of the year 2016. These articles are written by 12 authors from 4 different countries. These countries are Canada, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey.

The 1<sup>st</sup> article is titled **FROM ACTIVE LURKERS TO COMMUNITY LEADER: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO** and written by Dr. Turgay ALAKURT. In this article, Dr. ALAKURT explains community of practice among mathematic teachers. An e-mail based supporting system is used among the teachers. Content analysis and clustering analysis are used to gather the results. The results show that there are five different types of participation defined as community leader, core members, active members, peripheral members and active lurkers. Besides, there is a group who never participate in knowledge sharing and exchange.

**DEVELOPING THE 21ST-CENTURY SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION** is the title of the 2<sup>nd</sup> article. Dr. Mohammad Imam FARISI is the author of this article. Dr. FARISI highlights the educational necessity of technology in the digital era. Depending on this phenomena, this study examines and describes academic evolution toward a commitment and further development in research. Also, it establishes 21st-century skills map for the social studies, and the implications for developing teachers' competences and teachers' education curriculum.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> article is written by Fatma OZUDOGRU and Dr. Murat HISMANOGLU. **VIEWS OF FRESHMEN STUDENTS ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES DELIVERED VIA E-LEARNING** is the title of the article. This study is aimed at finding out the views of freshmen students on foreign language courses delivered via e-learning and revealing whether there were any statistically significant differences between students' views in terms of age, gender, time spent on using e-learning system and the faculty they studied at. Research results showed, there were no significant correlations between students' views and age and the time spent on using e-learning. On the other hand, statistically significant differences were found between students' views and gender and the faculty students were studying at.

The 4<sup>th</sup> article, titled **INSTRUCTION DESIGN SYSTEM OF ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY: A VEHICLE FOR IMPROVEMENT OR MERE A SALOGON**, is written by Muhammad ASHFAQ, Dr. Muhammad Ajmal CHAUDRY and Dr. Muhammad Javed IQBAL. This study aimed to analyze the existing instructional design system of Allama Iqbal Open University. Besides, the study identifies the possibilities of new innovations, explores the gap between existing practices and opportunities of instructional design system and suggests the strategies for improvement in instructional design system at Allama Iqbal Open University.

The 5<sup>th</sup> article is conducted by Dr. Irem ERDEM AYDIN and Salih GUMUS and titled **SENSE OF CLASSROOM COMMUNITY AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN ONLINE LEARNING**. Determining whether there is a relationship between Turkish online learners' sense of classroom community, perceptions of success in team development process and their preferences of studying in teams covers the purpose of this study. In the end, the authors find out that there is a medium level relationship between online learners' sense of community and their perceptions of success in team development process.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIRTUAL SCHOOLING IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR** is the title of the 6<sup>th</sup> article and this article is written by Nadeem SAQLAIN. The author explains the historical development of distance education in Newfoundland and Labrador in this article. Also, some recommendations are made to improve virtual schooling in the province by the author.

The 7<sup>th</sup> article's title is **RESEARCHING AND EVALUATING DIGITAL STORYTELLING AS A DISTANCE EDUCATION TOOL IN PHYSICS INSTRUCTION: AN APPLICATION WITH PRE-SERVICE PHYSICS TEACHERS**. Nihat KOTLUK and Dr. Serhat KOCAKAYA are the authors of this article. According to the authors, storytelling is the one of approach which is allowed to using technology in educational field. The aim of this study is to define the use of digital storytelling in physics instruction as a distance education tool. The results shows using digital storytelling as distance education tool will be efficacious.

Two books are reviewed in this issue. The title of the 1<sup>st</sup> book is **BUILDING VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATORS**. This book is written by M. Aaron Bond and Barbara B. Lockee. The reviewer is Gokhan Deniz DINCER.

Other book's title is **FLEXIBLE PEDAGOGY AND FLEXIBLE PRACTICE**. This book is an editorial book and the editors are Elizabeth Burge, Chère Campbell Gibson and Terry Gibson. This book is reviewed by Hakan KILINC.

I wish a happy new year for all of you. Hope to meet again in the next issue of TOJDE.  
Cordially,

**Dr. T. Volkan YUZER**  
Editor-in-Chief