

Early Years – An International Research Journal
Editors' report to the AGM, October 2013

The journal has continued to meet all its targets this year despite the new challenges of producing 4 issues instead of 3, and thus working to a much tighter schedule. Our final issue for this year is currently in production and will appear in good time for its December cover-date.

At our annual editorial meeting in February, the publisher's report from Taylor and Francis again showed a steady increase in the number of readers, the number of full-text downloads, and the number of countries in our reach, exceeding the totals for 2011-12. We were again very encouraged by the proactive publicity and marketing undertaken by T and F on our behalf, and by their evident enthusiasm for the journal. However, we have found that we need to remain vigilant as delays to the production and distribution of flyers and other publicity material can still occur due to changes in the staff at T and F, and their extreme busy-ness.

We continue to receive enough submitted papers to produce our 4 issues; this means in practice accepting around 28 papers a year from the 40-50 papers we typically receive. The submission of independent papers has been slower this year than in previous years, but we have continued to have success with the 'Calls for Papers' for special issues. Special issues can produce a high level of discussion on the chosen topic, particularly if we circulate a request for abstracts prior to inviting authors to submit their full papers. They have the advantage of making a substantial contribution to advancing key debates. However, we plan to review our original intention of keeping the June and December issues as Special Issues, because there can also be disadvantages to this pattern, including the fact that some authors have to wait for several months to see their papers in print. A paper which does not find space in the September issue, for instance, now has to wait until March for its next chance.

For this reason we plan to take a slightly more flexible approach to our annual planning in future, and to allocate Special Issues in the light of our existing backlog and flow of independent papers. We currently have two such issues lined up for 2014-15: one focusing on pedagogical documentation, and guest-edited by two members of our Editorial Board (Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, Sweden, and Marjatta Kalliala, Finland); the other on early years transitions, which will be guest edited by Sally Peters (New Zealand) and Aline-Wendy Dunlop (Scotland).

Issues in 2013 were as follows:

- 33,1 (March), an independent issue including papers from Canada, Croatia, Germany and the UK, as well as an African cross-national study
- 33,2 (June), a special issue focusing on continuing professional development for early years practitioners. This issue included papers from New Zealand and Australia, Italy and Canada, the USA and the UK.
- 33, 3 (September), an extra-large issue with independently submitted papers from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, England, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Wales.

- 33, 4 (forthcoming in December), a special issue on Integrated working in the early years, guest-edited by Joce Nuttall and Andrea Nolan from Australia and including papers from Australia, England, Germany and Turkey.

We continue to be grateful for the hard work of our Assistant Editor (also our Book Reviews Editor), Jan Georgeson, who is kept very busy behind the scenes helping the editing process to run smoothly, and producing our review section.

Finally: in previous years we have flagged up our frustration at receiving no response to our 2011 request to be included in the Social Science Citation Index. This year our Chair, Jane Payler, undertook to investigate on our behalf, and received the news that our application was rejected in 2011. Particularly disappointing was the fact that we had not been informed about this, nor of the reasons for it. We are entitled to re-apply in 2014, and hope to receive some guidance on how we can best demonstrate that we meet the criteria which Taylor & Francis have suggested are important for this award. However, we are obviously at a disadvantage by having received this news at such a late stage.

Liz Brooker, Pamela Oberhuemer and Rod Parker-Rees – editors.