13 January 2012

Dear ALT Members,

We are writing to you jointly to make you fully aware of major and ambitious changes in publishing arrangements for *Research in Learning Technology – the Journal of the Association for Learning Technology.*

The most important change is that *Research in Learning Technology* is now an Open Access journal published in partnership with the specialist Swedish Open Access publisher Co-Action Publishing. The journal has now moved to its new web site on Co-Action Publishing's publishing platform at www.ResearchinLearningTechnology.net. **The entire contents of the journal are thus now freely available to anyone with an Internet connection anywhere in the world.** Articles published from 2012 will be available in a range of digital formats including PDF, HTML and XML; and we are also publishing in EPUB format to allow convenient reading on hand held devices such as tablets and smart phones. Past experience shows that Open Access publishing will greatly increase the number of full text downloads of articles: it is also likely to increase citation rates.

From January 2012 *Research in Learning Technology* will grow very substantially. Firstly we will increase the number of Issues each year from three to four, one of which will be a Special Issue. The 2012 Special Issue will be about Digital Inclusion and Learning, guest edited by Jane Seale, Professor of Education at Plymouth University, and William Dutton, Professor of Internet Studies at the University of Oxford. Secondly we will publish two Journal Supplements: the Proceedings Papers from the ALT Conference; and a topic-based supplement. In 2012 this topic-based supplement will be entitled *The Art and Science of Learning Design.*

This increased amount of content will be available in print to the individuals and organisations who choose to receive it: for further information about print prices in 2012 please refer to the publications area of the ALT web site www.alt.ac.uk/publications/rlt/subscribe .

As well as changing the publishing model for *Research in Learning Technology*, we will also change the timing of publication. Articles for all issues except special issues and supplements will be published online as soon as they are ready for publication, **normally within three weeks of final acceptance**. This means that authors will generally no longer experience the delay – common under conventional publishing models – of having to wait for an entire issue to be ready for publication before an article is available.

As an Open Access journal *Research in Learning Technology* is published under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike Licence. Authors retain the copyright to their articles whilst granting the right to re-use content for any purpose as long as the original source is properly cited. The Creative Commons license makes depositing easy, because authors may deposit **any** version of their manuscript **anywhere**.

There are **no publication fees**, and we encourage authors to submit colour images and supplementary materials such as audio, video, data sets, related power point presentations, etc.

The journal's hitherto indexing will be maintained, including: Australian Education Index (AEI); Australian Research Council (ARC) Ranked Journal List; British Education Index; Contents Pages in Education; Educational Research Abstracts Online (ERA); ERIC; ERIH (European Reference Index for the Humanities, Pedagogical and Educational Research); National Database for Research into International Education (NDRI) and PsycINFO. For detailed information for authors, go to the publications area of the ALT web site.

The transfer of *Research in Learning Technology* from Taylor and Francis to Co-Action Publishing, and the change in publishing model, was agreed in early 2011, following an open competitive tendering process, and you may wish to know something of Co-Action Publishing – www.co-action.net. The company was launched in 2007 as a limited liability company in Sweden. It is solely owned by the founding partners all of whom have long experience in international scholarly publishing. The founders launched the company because they felt strongly about providing Open Access and wanted to design a company that provides excellent service to learned societies and their members, to editors, and especially to authors, treating all as partners in a joint endeavor. Today Co-Action Publishing's portfolio consists of more than 20 journals, with a particular focus on medicine and education. Co-Action Publishing currently holds the Presidency of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) through co-founder Caroline Sutton.

ALT, the Editors and Co-Action Publishing believe that the change in publishing model described in this letter provides a great opportunity for ALT and for the learning technology field more generally. We are looking forward to jointly increasing the reach and influence of *Research in Learning Technology*, and the esteem in which it is held.

If at any time you have questions or suggestions about the journal or about the cooperation between ALT and Co-Action Publishing, please do not hesitate to contact either of us directly.

Kind Regards,

Caroline Sutton   Seb Schmoller
Publisher, Co-Action Publishing   Chief Executive, ALT