From the Editors

Building on Seven Years of Collaborative Effort

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It has now been seven years since the first issue of *ITID*, and we have much to be proud of, both as a journal and as a community of researchers in information technologies and international development. We have witnessed the community grow from a handful of researchers in isolated disciplines to researchers numbering in the hundreds, perhaps thousands, and from a wide array of academic fields. It is increasingly common to hear computer scientists talking about grounded theory and anthropologists participating in iterative prototyping. We were also happy to see the birth of the ICTD conference in 2006 and to support its growth; this year's event in London will mark the fourth event.

ITID has also come into its own as a journal. In 2006 we went fully open access, so that our articles were available to anyone with an Internet connection. In 2008, as we launched our new web site, we brought on four Associate Editors and an Editorial Board Liaison, who have been a tremendous help with many of the editorial tasks. Over time, we have broadened our initial conception of the journal, which was to include articles from both ICT observers and ICT interventionists. With increasing submissions and opportunities for special issues, we now regularly fill four issues per year (something that we struggled with in our earlier years), and we often find that we have an embarrassment of riches with respect to submissions to choose from. All of this has allowed the journal to continue its quest for ever greater quality.

As evidence of our success, we are very pleased to present in this issue's Forum section, ranking tables of ICT4D journals compiled by Richard Heeks. Among the 15 main ICT4D journals included in his analysis, *ITID* features at the top of the "Impact Score" ranking, and in third position for the "Citation" ranking. We owe these distinctions to our outstanding *ITID* authors, editorial board members, reviewers, and not least, our readers. We are extremely grateful.

With growth comes change, and over the last few months, we have reconstituted our Editorial Board. The founding Editorial Board members—Izumi Aizu, Raymond Akwule, Subhash Bhatnagar, Antonio Botelho, Martha Garcia-Murillo, Seymour E. Goodman, Guo Liang, Cees J. Hamelink, Heather Hudson, Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Beth Kolko, Catherine Mann, Robin Mansell, Venâncio Massingue, Michel J. Menou, Alemayehu Molla, Ben Petrazzini, Nii Quaynor, Mitchel Resnick, Rohan Samarajiva, AnnaLee Saxenian, Ben Shneiderman, Ramesh Srinivasan, Tim Unwin and Robert Valantin—have provided advice, encouragement, and quite a few paper reviews from the beginning. *ITID* would not be where it is today without them.

After seven years of service, it seemed a good time to check in. Many board members have become increasingly busy in their own professional lives, just as *ITID's* demands are growing. Some have thus

moved to our Emeritus Board, whose wisdom we will undoubtedly seek from time to time. Meanwhile, we are delighted to welcome our new Editorial Board members— Jennifer Bussell, Andy Dearden, Keith Edwards, Helani Galpaya, Martha Garcia-Murillo, Heather Horst, Tim Kelly, Charles Kenny, Dorothea Kleine, Richa Kumar, Renee Kuriyan, Rich Ling, Joyojeet Pal, Balaji Parthasarathy, Revi Sterling, Lakshmi Subramanian, Bill Thies, and John Traxler. Reflecting the growth of the community, many are "first generation" researchers in ICT and development who are plotting new academic trajectories. They join Raymond Akwule, Antonio Botelho, Heather Hudson, Beth Kolko, and Ben Petrazzini, all of whom have kindly elected to remain active on the Editorial Board.

We should also note a change of guard among our Associate Editors. Roxana Barrantes, Alemayehu Molla, Tapan Parikh, and Rahul Tongia are our first group of Associate Editors, and all of them have been fantastic over the last two years in helping us triage submissions, oversee reviews, and make acceptance decisions. Barrantes and Molla will continue as Associate Editors, while Parikh and Tongia have moved to the Editorial Board. And, we are very happy to announce that Jenna Burrell and Gary Marsden have accepted posts as Associate Editors. Burrell is an Assistant Professor at UC Berkeley's School of Information, where she is well-known for her work in user agency, post-colonial relations, digital representation, and the appropriation of ICTs by individuals and social groups in Africa. Marsden is an Associate Researcher in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Cape Town; he is a pioneer in human-computer interaction research with mobile phones and co-author of *Mobile Interaction Design*.

And, now, on to our issue …

A research report by Fischman, Alperin and Willinsky assesses the status of Spanish-language scholarly publishing in Latin America today, situating it within the broader context of the evolution of Latin American universities. This piece explores in particular the role online publishing platforms can play in strengthening scholarly publishing in the region. The authors note the rapid adoption of electronic publishing and open access models in Latin America, with an eye toward increasing the global reach of scholarship originating in the region. They caution however that technology alone will not suffice, and that it will be important to promote a stronger research and review culture. Wagner, Daswani, and Karnati explore whether local language multimedia software can be effective to promote literacy among poor and illiterate children and youth. Based on short-term interventions in two communities of Andhra Pradesh, India, they conclude that computer-aided instruction does make a difference, especially when it is available in local languages.

Majumdar's study of Indian information technology firms shows that their R&D spending level significantly contributes to their earnings from exports. Importantly, many global firms, including IBM, Microsoft and Google, for example, have chosen to locate top research laboratories within India. The author argues that a broader segment of domestic firms ought to emulate them and increase their R&D investments. Graham critically evaluates claims that Internet use within the Thai silk industry, in particular the establishment of a virtual presence by Thai silk producers, leads to significant gains through disintermediation of the commodity chain, as producers become able to sell directly to their customers. However, in surveys of prices and wages received by Thai silk producers, the author finds little evidence to support those claims. Alampay and Bala's "Notes from the Field" reports on LIRNEasia's 2008 survey of mobile money use at the bottom of the pyramid in the Philippines. They show that despite widespread awareness of m-money's availability and broad access to mobile handsets, very few among the poor have been using these services.