



Editorial

IARTEM was created to foster research on textbooks and other educational resources, on different media. Overtime a new phenomenon has come to occupy a place of great importance in this research field, without superseding traditional books: digitalization.

It is well established that digital resources and instruments now play a central role in everyday life and they change the way we communicate. However, the consensus stops here. The public debate on how things are really changing the society often spins around an opposition between utopian views (we are going towards better times, with many problems solved) and dystopian views (the future is gloomy, Big brother has won the game...).

Of course, the reality is more complex and the future is not yet fully written. It is one of the researchers' responsibilities in the social sciences and the humanities to break simplistic binary questions into more subtle ones in order to shed light on what is happening, on what may be taking form, on the trends, the tensions and contradictions that block change.

Education is a very special field of research where punctual research bumps into several critical boundaries: first educational systems have a strong homeostasis and evolve very slowly. The effects of any change in pedagogy will take decades to manifest themselves. Indeed, they may manifest themselves at such times when the resources first considered no longer exist. Secondly, in education it is so difficult to separate variables and to identify the effects of isolated variables, like the type of artifact that has been used. However educational research exists, offering insights and reframing problems.

Among the many possible ways of disseminating research in the society, journals play a significant part. One of their most important features is that they disseminate new ideas on a regular basis, depending on the contribution of authors in the community. They publish accounts of how things are changing or persisting and analyze problematic issues so that, hopefully, readers may be inspired by them.

This wager was made by the IARTEM founding members when they created the e-journal, a wager which we try to keep active.

This new issue of the journal comes out rather quickly after the previous one, which had taken much time to come to light, due to a series of considerations that were briefly explained in the last editorial (<https://ojs.bibsys.no/index.php/IARTEM/article/view/632/542>).

Due to the possibilities of digitalization, we have adopted a new dynamic. Two issues shall normally appear each year, but we shall now publish articles as soon as possible, in function of the flux of contributions and the reactivity of reviewers. We thus hope that this choice will fuel debates and new productions on the main topics of IARTEM: research on textbooks and educational media in all its forms.

Georges-Louis Baron, Editor in Chief