

Editorial

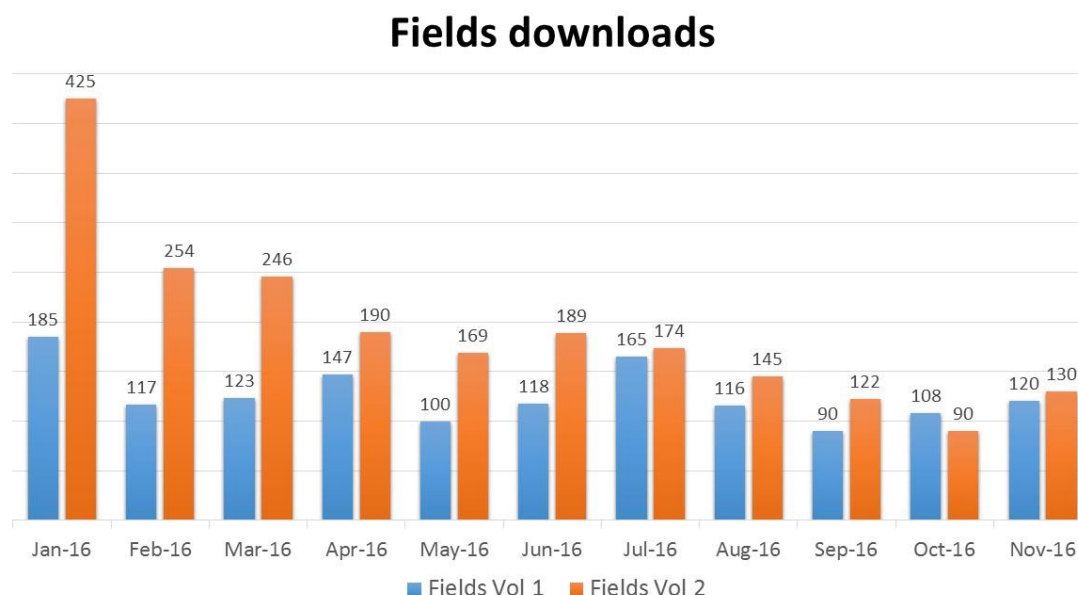
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Welcome to the third edition of *Fields*, the University of Huddersfield's student research journal. Having been involved with the development of this journal from its beginnings as an editorial board member, and for the past two years as editor, I feel privileged to have read such an excellent body of student work, and to be presenting the papers for this third volume.

Volume 1 and 2 are well read, with evidence from downloads (see Figure 1) that interest is sustained and growing.

Figure 1: Downloads from Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 of *Fields*



By any standards, 2016 was a turbulent year. The students represented here graduated at a time when seismic political decisions in many countries, including the UK, and extreme conflict world-wide had challenged accepted beliefs and heralded more change to come. This year's authors and their work are representative of the critically aware, articulate and confident graduates necessary for the future development of ideas and research across many disciplines.

A three-stage editorial process starts with nominations of excellent research assignments, which are reviewed in each academic school to identify those with the potential for conversion to a journal paper. Following feedback and redrafting, papers are submitted to the *Fields* editorial panel for academic peer review, and 12 of these papers are published here.

For me, editing *Fields* has, more than anything, highlighted that what counts as 'scholarship' across the subjects studied at Huddersfield is fascinating and wide ranging. For example, from Applied Sciences the potential for students to make a significant contribution to large-scale projects is illustrated by Laura Lo's case study in which she has demonstrated the

ability to develop new crystals that can assist in the management and safety of lead pipes in the UK water industry.

Many areas of study illustrate the cross-disciplinary applications of technology. Nicholas Horne researches a method for monitoring power system quality using a low-cost PC-based electrical system analyser, demonstrating that accurate results could be achieved without expensive high-tech equipment. Octavian Stroe uses electronic measurements and the subjective perceptions of research participants to research the quality of sound produced by different amplifiers, while musician Sam Perry creates a software package using Python that can produce high-quality synthesised musical outputs.

Pharmacists play a vital role in the management of health and are often well placed to identify need. Two pharmacy students present papers this year: Lauren Kerr investigates the effectiveness of the 'Stopp/Start' toolkit in managing polypharmacy and Gemma Nichols conducts a retrospective review of the 'Quest for Quality' scheme aimed at reducing hospital admission. Their systematic enquiry and recommendations for improvements demonstrate the potential value of student research and the skills they take into their professional practice.

Further research related to health and wellbeing this year has included Geri Gee's study of the effects of mandatory shift working on the health of health professional students, and Charlie Hill's study of practitioners in a Mother and Baby Unit situated in a women's prison. Both illuminate areas of interest and the potential for further research.

Meanwhile, Music, Humanities and Media are represented by Katie McAdam's detailed historical research into the myth narrative surrounding the death of Edward II, and Henry Dale offers an interesting new interpretation of *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy through exploration of music as represented by the flute and its place within the cave imagery of the novel.

From the Business School, social enterprise is seen as a positive social movement, but little is known about the entrepreneurs involved. In her qualitative study, Gemma Humphris explores the motivations of entrepreneurs, shedding some light on this phenomenon. Finally, Helen Newman takes a critical look at prenuptial agreements, exploring their legal standing and usefulness for ordinary people, rather than the celebrities who are often at the centre of case law creation.

This is my last year as Editor, and I am pleased to announce that Professor Bingunath Ingirige, from the School of Art Design and Architecture, is taking on this role. I wish him and the whole editorial team well as *Fields* continues to go from strength to strength.

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Editor of *Fields*