



TRIBUTE TO IRENE THOMPSON

In July 1997, Mark Warschauer realized his vision of an open access journal for emerging research in the field of computer-assisted language learning as the founding Editor of *Language Learning & Technology*. A year later, in July 1998, Lucinda Hart-González joined as a Co-Editor (serving for two years in that position), and in January 1999, Irene Thompson came on board as the third Editor. Thirteen years and 37 issues later, Irene is stepping down at the end of August 2011. I have had the great privilege and pleasure to work with Irene for the last 12 years since 2000 and would like to offer a tribute to her for helping to bring *LLT* to the tremendous heights it has reached.

In 1998, *LLT* had more than 1,000 readers worldwide. In 2010, there were 18,214 official subscribers, and the journal's Website has an average of 1,513 visitors *per day*, with over 552,000 visitors during the year. Since 2003, *LLT* has been indexed in the exclusive Institute for Scientific Information's (ISI) Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), ISI Alerting Services, Social SciSearch, and Current Contents/Social and Behavioral Sciences, and in 2009 was ranked 3rd in Linguistics journals (out of 93) and 3rd in Education journals (out of 139).

ISI Journal Citation Reports® Ranking:

Year	Impact Factor	5 Year	Linguistics	Education
2009	2.53	3.575	3 out of 93	3 out of 139
2008	1.70	2.067	11 out of 68	9 out of 113
2007	1.22	No Data	13 out of 55	14 out of 105

A study by Smith and Lafford (2009) that appeared in *The Modern Language Journal* surveyed expert researchers in language education and technology. These experts ranked *Language Learning & Technology* highest in quality in a list of 19 academic journals. *LLT* was also ranked first in terms of these scholars' preferences for publishing their own research and in having benefit for tenure/promotion.

All of the above successes are due in large measure to Irene Thompson's expertise, dedication, thoroughness, attention to detail and unwavering commitment to excellence. She has worked tirelessly on all aspects of the journal, from the layout and design of the Website to the copyediting of individual articles and reviews, from performing internal reviews of the 150+ yearly submissions during the last several years to working closely with authors to craft publishable articles. During the time of her editorship, the journal has received over 1,300 submissions! Although we are on opposite ends of the continent, working with Irene these past 12 years has been seamless, enjoyable, and immensely rewarding. My heartfelt gratitude to her professionally and personally, and my very best wishes for her well deserved retirement.

Despite the sadness of Irene Thompson's departure, the journal seems to have come full circle as we welcome Mark Warschauer back as Co-Editor. *LLT* will no doubt continue to thrive and benefit from Mark's visionary leadership. Aloha and mahalo to Irene and welcome back, Mark!

Sincerely,

Dorothy Chun

Editor-in-Chief