

Editorial

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This issue of *ReCALL* represents something of a watershed in the journal's history, for a number of reasons. First of all I have to report that Professor Graham Chesters has decided that he wishes to step down as co-editor, and I would like to thank him here for all his work for the journal over the years. Back in 1990 when Graham and I were involved with the Computers in Teaching Initiative Centre for Modern Languages (CTICML) at the University of Hull, funded by the UK Higher Education Funding Council, one of the required 'deliverables' was a regular Newsletter, designed to inform university language lecturers about developments in the use of new technologies in language learning. It soon became apparent that some of the material that was being submitted for publication was far too substantial for a Newsletter, yet merited dissemination among our readers. It was Graham who saw the potential need for a new academic journal in this field, and thus *ReCALL* was born. I still blush to see my attempts at desk-top publishing in those early issues!

In 1993, when EUROCALL was established as a formal association at the Hull conference, it was decided that *ReCALL* would become the journal of both EUROCALL and CTICML. The synergy between these two organisations enabled us to employ professional typesetters, with a redesigned cover (not very different from the one in use today) and, more importantly, to establish a peer review system and to widen the distribution of the journal.

Towards the end of the 1990s, when it became clear that the Computers in Teaching Initiative was coming to an end, *ReCALL* became entirely EUROCALL's journal and it was decided that the time had come to seek a commercial publisher who could market the journal properly to reach a wider international readership, and in particular university libraries. As a first step, thinking it rather a long shot, I sent a copy of *ReCALL* to the Journals Editor at Cambridge University Press and asked whether CUP might be interested in discussing collaboration, as I happened to be visiting Cambridge

very shortly. To our delight, Patrick McCartan responded that he already knew the journal and would be very interested. The first meeting in Cambridge was quickly followed by one in Hull where Graham, as Treasurer of EUROCALL, negotiated a six-year contract with CUP from the year 2000. From that point a new Editorial Board was appointed and clear academic criteria for submission to *ReCALL* were developed. Those six years coincided with a difficult period for all academic journals, with cuts in library spending and new initiatives in online publication making financial forecasting extremely hazardous. CUP have been flexible and supportive over this time and now, with a new contract starting in 2007, *ReCALL* is at last on a more stable footing.

Volume 19 in 2007 will bring with it two major changes: first of all, from now on the journal will appear three times a year, in January, May and September. Apart from other advantages this will provide an opportunity to publish occasional Special Issues, the first of which, 'Integrating Corpora in Language Learning and Teaching, is scheduled for September 2007 (see page 263). Secondly, Dr Françoise Blin will replace Graham as co-editor. Readers of *ReCALL* will recognise her name as a long-standing member of the Academic Advisory Panel, as current Vice-President of EUROCALL, and as an active researcher and writer in the wider field of CALL. We all know that Françoise will do an excellent job and I very much look forward to working with her.