



# IARTEM

International Association for Research on Textbooks and Educational Media

## ***Newsletter January 2012***

*Dear friends*

*Here is our latest Newsletter containing items of interest to all those involved in textbooks and textbook research. I hope you enjoy reading it and will find something of interest to you in its pages.*

*If you would like to send me any news from your organization or would like to share ideas about projects and research, please write to me and I will file the item for our next issue.*

*With kind regards and best wishes for 2012*

*Jim McCall*

*Newsletter Editor*

*[consultmccall@btinternet.com](mailto:consultmccall@btinternet.com)*

## **IARTEM Conference, Kaunas, September 2011**

Over fifty delegates came to Lithuania in September for a truly memorable conference. If you weren't there, you really missed something! Delegates came from all over the world: from Lithuania itself, Australia, Denmark, Norway, Japan, the Netherlands, Scotland, Latvia, South Africa, Germany, Portugal, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France and Spain – a truly international gathering.

There were four workshops on a variety of topics, as well as a theoretical session and a fascinating visit to a local school.

Kaunas is a beautiful city with many interesting places to visit and the venue for the conference, Vytautas Magnus University, has excellent facilities and a very attractive campus. There was a good selection of hotels and excellent places to eat (and drink). Because

of the relatively small number of delegates, there was a 'family atmosphere' throughout and everyone was made to feel welcome.

We are now beginning to plan our next conference – details to follow: watch this space!

The **General Assembly** of IARTEM took place at the end of the conference. Some key points emerged:

- **Bi-annual Report of the Board**

Susanne V Knudsen presented the Bi-annual Report of the Board, drawing particular attention to the Conference Volume from the 2009 conference in Santiago de Compostela, and to the Journal and Newsletter. IARTEM had been represented at a symposium arranged by the Korea Textbook Research Foundation. IARTEM had also been involved, through two of its board members, with the European Educational Publishers Group (EEPG) Best Schoolbook of the Year Award.

It was agreed that the 2011 Conference in Kaunas had been very successful and thanks were due to all those Board members who had worked hard to bring this about, in particular Natalie Mazeikiene

- **Auditor's report**

The report of the Auditor, Preben Spath, was unanimously accepted

- **Annual subscription rate**

It was agreed that the annual subscription rate for the next two years would be 50 Euros

- **Financial and strategic plan**

Arno Reints presented the paper Strategic Plan and Budget Policy 2011-13, highlighting three main strategies, and this was unanimously accepted

- **Budget estimates 2011-2013**

Arno Reints presented the Budget Estimates for the next two years and these were unanimously accepted

- **New membership policy**

James McCall presented the revised Membership Policy, which will separate membership from conference attendance, and this was unanimously accepted

- **Election of President**

Susanne V Knudsen was unanimously elected as President

- **Election of Vice President**

Mike Horsley was unanimously elected as Vice President

- **Election of Secretary**

James McCall was unanimously elected as Secretary

- **Election of Treasurer**

Arno Reints was unanimously elected as Treasurer

- **Election of Board members**

The following were elected to the Board: Katalin Morgan, Zuzana Sikorova, Ommund C. Vareberg

- **Election of auditor**

Preben Spath of Denmark was unanimously elected as auditor

- **Election of Nominating Committee**

The following were elected to the Nominating Committee: Kathy Bauer, Anne Kristine Runestad

- **Future Programme (2 years)**

Susanne V Knudsen outlined the future programme for the next two years, highlighting the proposal to hold a regional conference in Brazil in September 2012 and the bi-annual conference in the Czech Republic in 2013

## **New Board Members**

As you see we now have three new Board Members and we welcome them to the IARTEM family:

**Katalin Morgan**

Kathy has just accepted a new job at the University of Johannesburg and we all wish her well. She will keep us in touch with Africa.

### **Zuzana Sikorova**

Zuzana is based in Ostrava, Czech Republic, and we are now planning to have our next bi-annual conference there in 2013. There are lots of reasons to come to Ostrava- just ask Zuzana about them and she will make it impossible for you not to be there!

### **Ommund C. Vareberg**

Ommund is based at Vestfold College in Norway and will be helping look after our website.

## **Conference Volume**

The editors of the Conference Volume for the 11th IARTEM International Conference, Representations of Otherness, held at Kaunas between September 28th and 30th 2011 are now making a call for **completed papers** for the 11th conference volume.

### ***The deadline for submission is January 31st, 2012***

For further details please visit our website: [www.iartem.no](http://www.iartem.no)

## **IARTEM e-journal – a note from the Editor**

The latest issue of the IARTEM e-Journal has been published on schedule.

Volume 4 No 1, the current issue of the IARTEM e-Journal, is now available from the IARTEM website.

The *IARTEM eJournal* has now been listed on the Directory of Open Access Journals.

Please see the listing and the member organisations of DOAJ at the following site:

<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=openurl&genre=journal&issn=18372104>

Dr. Mike Horsley, Vice President of IARTEM, *Editor, IARTEM e-Journal*

## **What makes an effective textbook?**

From March 19-21, 2012, there will be a course on **textbook writing and evaluation** in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

This course has run very successfully for several years with participants from South Africa, Russia, Finland, Portugal, Slovenia, Estonia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Korea and Malaysia, amongst other places. The course leaders are James McCall (International Textbook Consultant) and Arno Reints (CLU, University of Utrecht).

The course is aimed at educational publishers, teachers, educational quality managers, ministries of education officials and indeed anyone who is working in the area of textbooks and textbook evaluation. It has been developed by leading experts in the field who have experience of writing, publishing, evaluating and teaching.

There are four main themes:

- Quality of content
- Pedagogical approach
- Design and presentation
- Production standards

Your own textbooks will be studied and evaluated during the course.

For further information, or to make a booking, please write to [a.reints@clu.nl](mailto:a.reints@clu.nl)

***Places are limited and time is short so please write to Arno now.***

***Here is news of other conferences taking place in various parts of the world – please get in touch with the organizers if you are interested....***

### **Design for Learning Conference**

The Third International "Designs for Learning"-Conference will take place in Copenhagen April 25-27, 2012: [www.dpu.dk/df12012](http://www.dpu.dk/df12012)

The e-journal *Designs for learning* No. 1/11 is now available at [www.designsforlearning.nu](http://www.designsforlearning.nu)

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### ***And the latest news from our colleagues at the Georg Eckert Institute:***

#### **News from the Georg Eckert Institute (December 2011) - English Version**

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#### **"World Aware Education Award" for Historiana - Your Portal to the Past**

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The final meeting of the advisory group of the EU project 'Exploring European History and Heritage' took place in The Hague from 2 to 3

December 2011. The board concluded with considerable satisfaction that, since its first meeting in November 2008, the vague idea concerning the teaching and learning of European history with the support of information and communication technology has now been realised in the form of an interactive and multimedia online platform. The result is the website [www.historiana.eu](http://www.historiana.eu), created under the auspices of EUROCLIO with the support of several partners, including the GEI. Although the site has not yet been activated, it has proven itself to be so effective that the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has already announced that it will be receiving the World Aware Education Award at the end of 2011.

Contact: Robert Maier ([maier@gei.de](mailto:maier@gei.de))

### **Conference "Poland in German School Teaching: Between Intention and Reality"**

Even today, schools in Germany deal only peripherally with Poland. It is for this reason that the German Poland Institute, together with the Georg Eckert Institute, organised the conference 'Poland in German School Teaching', which took place from 17 to 19 November 2011 in the Haus am Maiberg in Heppenheim. The aim of the conference was to elucidate the tense relationship between the academic goals aspired to when conveying knowledge about Poland and the basic conditions of everyday schooling, and to consider opportunities for further development. Several fellows from the GEI presented their projects at this event. Marcin Wiatr, for example, talked about his project 'Upper Silesia and its Cultural Inheritance - The Results of Remembrance Policies, Ideas for Education Policies and Didactic Innovations', while Thomas Strobel talked about the 'German-Polish History Textbook', and Lucas Garske gave a commentary about the book 'Polish History', published by the German Poland Institute. The large number of teachers present from all over Germany gave reason to expect that all of these projects may be put to the test of practical experience in schools, and that teachers may provide valuable advice concerning ways in which these projects may successfully be implemented in the classroom.

Contact: Thomas Strobel ([strobel@gei.de](mailto:strobel@gei.de))

### **The Library as a Meeting Place 2011**

For the first time ever, the library of the Georg Eckert Institute took part in the national awareness week 'The Library as a Meeting Place – Information Has Many Faces' by organising two meetings dealing with the topic of school textbooks.

On 28 October, members from the reading group of the child and youth department of the Graff bookshop in Braunschweig presented their assessments of a selection of history textbooks currently on the market. Far from the daily routine and pressures of school life, they produced thoughtful and critical book reviews which can be found online on the website Edumeres.net.

The event which took place on 31 October was devoted to the production of textbooks. Helen Fürniß, the managing editor of primary school textbooks for the Westermann publishing group in Braunschweig, gave a clear and colourful account of the complex procedure undertaken when developing textbooks.

Further Information:

*GEI.Das Bulletin. Winter 2011: "Treffpunkt Bibliothek"*

[http://www.gei.de/fileadmin/Publikationen/Bulletin/Bulletin\\_10/EB\\_10\\_15\\_Schmidt.pdf](http://www.gei.de/fileadmin/Publikationen/Bulletin/Bulletin_10/EB_10_15_Schmidt.pdf)

*Edumeres.net: Reviews online*

[http://www.edumeres.net/publikationen/rezensionen/projektrezensionen.html?tx\\_emreviews\\_pi1\[rpid\]=12&cHash=58d98d8852](http://www.edumeres.net/publikationen/rezensionen/projektrezensionen.html?tx_emreviews_pi1[rpid]=12&cHash=58d98d8852)

Contact: Anette Uphoff ([uphoff@gei.de](mailto:uphoff@gei.de))

**gei.digital**

### **The Growing Range of Volumes Stocked by GEI-Digital**

Work began on the digitalisation of history textbooks from the era of the Wilhelmine Empire in Germany (1871-1918) in the context of the GEI-Digital project in August 2009. The 1300th history textbook has now been made available for use online by academics and members of the general public. The project will now also begin to digitalise the stocks of other libraries. The Berlin State Library and the Library for Research into the History of Education, both of which are located in Berlin, are contributing the largest number of volumes for digitalisation. The Berlin State Library has provided 130 books for use by GEI-Digital. Most of the books in these collections from the former Royal Library and, later, the Prussian State Library, are history textbooks designed for use in primary schools during the Wilhelmine Empire, and are therefore very rare. Many of the primary school books are not registered in any other libraries in Germany.

Further Information: [www.gei-digital.de](http://www.gei-digital.de)

Contact: Robert Strötgen ([stroetgen@gei.de](mailto:stroetgen@gei.de))



## **The Library of the Georg Eckert Institute Has Acquired Part of the Stock of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany**

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In the summer of 2011, the library of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany closed. The Georg Eckert Institute had the opportunity to look through the stocks and to select books which are suitable for its own collection. As a result, four hundred school textbooks and academic books were acquired. Some of these volumes are grey literature dealing with education worldwide, and are rarely stocked by other libraries in Germany. These new acquisitions will soon be registered in the library catalogue and made available to users as soon as possible.

Contact: Anette Uphoff ([uphoff@gei.de](mailto:uphoff@gei.de))

## **Events**

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### **XIIth German-Czech Textbook Conference in Prague**

XIIth German-Czech Textbook Conference in Prague From 26 to 28 January 2012 the 12th German-Czech Textbook Conference will take place in Prague. The topic is 'History Teaching between Mass Media, Textbooks and Teaching Materials'.

Contact: Dr. Robert Maier ([maier@gei.de](mailto:maier@gei.de))

### **Colloquium, 1 February 2012, at 5 pm, Georg Eckert Institute**

Henning Hues (GEI)

History Teaching in South Africa between Curricular Intentions and Practical Applications

The history curriculum in South Africa reflects the rapid development of this country since the end of apartheid in 1990. The curriculum brings together society and politics in the common hope that a multiethnic state will succeed in building egalitarian educational institutions with conciliatory teaching contents. Yet which of these major goals is actually achieved in the classroom? Does the new curriculum really have the authority to bring about reconciliation and to mediate between social groups, which in this country are still segregated? What opportunities and risks are involved when attempting to implement the curriculum? This talk will offer insight into an ethnographic research project being carried

out in the work area 'Textbooks and Conflict', and deals with the contradiction between the intentions underlying the curriculum and the harsh reality which often reigns in the classroom.

Contact: Henning Hues ([hues@gei.de](mailto:hues@gei.de))

### **Colloquium, 7 March 2012, at 5 pm, Georg Eckert Institute**

Lars Müller (GEI)

In the Mirror of Africa. The Construction of the 'Self' in Discourse about Colonialism and about Aid to Developing Countries from 1945 to 1975.

In what ways did images of the self, defined in contrast to Africa in European history and geography textbooks, change from 1945 to 1975? This talk will explore this question by presenting the results of a study of textbooks used in West Germany, East Germany and England, then by assessing these results in the context of public debates about textbook knowledge. The textbooks, which are intended to operate as mediators between the fields of politics, scholarship, education and economics, provide a basis on which to explore how the 'self' is constructed as distinct from the 'other' in a variety of fields. It is for this reason that UNESCO, various governmental ministries, research institutes, and organisations providing development aid held talks about the 'correct' image of Africa to be presented in textbooks, and thereby helped to both stabilise and destabilise discursive formations.

Contact: Lars Müller ([lmuller@gei.de](mailto:lmuller@gei.de))

### **New Publications of the Institute**

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#### **Contributions to the workshop "Myths of the Crusades" now available on Edumeres.net**

Contributions to the workshop 'European Receptions of the Crusades in the Nineteenth Century. Franco-German Perspectives', which took place at the Georg Eckert Institute in February, are now available as electronic publications in English on Edumeres.net. The workshop was mainly devoted to comparisons of the reception of the Crusades in Europe.

The eight articles can be accessed in the institute's own series called 'Eckert.Dossier' at the following URL:

<http://www.edumeres.net/publikationen/details/d/european->

[receptions-of-the-crusades-in-the-nineteenth-century-franco-german-perspectives.html](http://www.gei.de/receptions-of-the-crusades-in-the-nineteenth-century-franco-german-perspectives.html)

Contact: Ines Guhe ([guhe@gei.de](mailto:guhe@gei.de))

### **Eckert. Das Bulletin 10. Winter 2011**

ISSN 1865-7907

Our biannual information brochure 'Eckert. Das Bulletin' aims to make events taking place in and around our institute accessible to a wide (not only academic) public and above all to the media. We would like to keep you informed about research taking place in the various work areas of the institute and in the institute as a whole. The Bulletin also offers insight into the GEI's position with regard to current academic and education policy. Subscriptions to The Bulletin are free of charge.

Further Information:

<http://www.gei.de/iup/publikationen/eckert-das-bulletin/eckert-das-bulletin-10.html>

**We wish you good health, happiness and success for the year 2012!**

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Um den Newsletter abzubestellen, folgen Sie diesem Link:  
*In order to stop receiving the newsletter, please follow this link:*  
<http://www.gei.de/nc/de/newsletter.html?&cmd=infomail>

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***For those of you with a special interest in geography, the following note from a colleague in Turkey may be of interest.***

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**From:** Eyüp Artvinli [eartvinli@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 15, 2011 11:16 PM  
**Subject:** The Second issue of RIGEO is published,,

Dear readers of RIGEO,  
We are pleased to announce that the issue of Review of International Geographical Education Online (RIGEO) has just been published at <http://www.rigeo.org> .

We invite you to review the Table of Contents here on the cover of the journal and then visit our web site to review articles and items of interest by clicking on the cover of the journal. We encourage you not only to read the RIGEO but to consider submitting your own work, and encouraging your research students to submit their work for possible publication in this journal. To submit articles for consideration or to receive further information and to send your recommendations, please contact us at [eartvinli@gmail.com](mailto:eartvinli@gmail.com)

**RIGEO is seeking qualified researchers as reviewers**

Review of International Geographical Education Online (RIGEO) is seeking qualified researchers as reviewers in "**Referee Advisory Board**". RIGEO will serve as an important resource for geography educators, researchers and students across the globe. We ask you to support this initiative by joining our team. If you are interested in serving as a member of the "Referee Advisory Board", kindly send us your resume together with at least 5 keywords which you want to focus on geographical education's sub-titles. You can check and copy some key words from the Scope and Focus of RIGEO link here: <http://www.rigeo.org/scope-and-focus.html> . You should send your CV and keywords to [eartvinli@gmail.com](mailto:eartvinli@gmail.com)

The second issue wouldn't have come true without encouragement and support of many valuable individuals. I would like to thank foremost, with a great respect, the individuals who spent their inestimable time to review the papers on behalf of RIGEO and the Editorial Board of RIGEO. Finally I would like to thank those educators who contributed to the second issue of RIGEO by submitting their papers.

Sincerely,  
Eyüp Artvinli, Ph.D. Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey