



Newsletter

Number 9 - Autumn/Winter 2008

Editorial

By Arno Reints

Every two year IARTEM organizes its bi-annual Conference. The next one will be organized in co-operation with the Universidade of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), from September 3-5, 2009. Our colleague Jesús Rodríguez Rodríguez is doing a great job by working hard on getting things settled. Within short information will be given about how to subscribe and about what to do to present a paper.

The past year was to be seen as a an intermediate year. We had of course our mini-conference at Madagascar, of which you will find a short report in this Newsletter.

And there has been given attention to the Volume of the Tønsberg Conference in 2007, and to the delivering of the 2nd E-Journal of IARTEM. Concerning both topics you will find some further information in this Newsletter.

We furthermore want to present you one of the leading Textbook Centers in the world: the Japan Textbook Research Center. And finally: IARTEM has given its support to a cooperation with the European Educational Publishers Group concerning the Best European Schoolbook Awards.

Wish you all a wonderful 2009!

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NEWS FROM IARTEM

Boarding-news

Treasury of IARTEM changed from Norway to the Netherlands

Due to banking regulations the board of IARTEM has decided to change the treasury function of IARTEM from Norway to the Netherlands. Look at the website www.iartem.no for further details.

(Arno Reints)

Tønsberg Conference Volume almost finalised

The papers have all been edited and returned to the Volume editors and a preliminary draft of the conference volume has been produced. Thanks to the authors who have returned the tracked changes to the editors.

A cover is being prepared. All that remains to finalise the conference volume is to request the workshop chairs to prepare an introduction to the papers. We expect the Conference volume to be available in early February 2009.

(Mike Horsley)

2nd Volume E-Journal is coming up

The IARTEM e-Journal is undergoing a revamp. Staffan Selander is working on the review of papers for Volume 2 . Mike Horsley is moving the e-Journal to a new website with updated facilities and developing the archiving system. We are planning to make Volume 2 No. 1 live in late January.

(Mike Horsley)

Upcoming

- upcoming Board meeting: February 4, 2009 (Santiago de Compostela)
- upcoming IARTEM-conference: September 3-5, 2009 (Santiago de Compostela)
- upcoming Newsletter: may/june 2009; please deliver copy by April 1, 2009, to a.reints@clu.nl

THE TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TEXTBOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

The International Association for Research on Textbooks and Educational Media (IARTEM) in co-operation with Universidade de Santiago de Compostela has the pleasure of inviting professionals from all over the world who work in the field of textbooks and educational media research and development to participate in the tenth IARTEM Conference.

The conference will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, September 3rd - 5th 2009.

The theme of the conference will be:

LOCAL, NATIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITIES IN TEXTBOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA.

Further information / a call for papers will follow. Please also consult our website: www.iartem.no
(Ragnhild Lund)

The mini-conference at Madagascar, October 2008

By Ragnhild Lund

An IARTEM mini-conference was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, 6th-8th October 2008:

Understanding and Improving the Role of Textbooks and Educational Media in a Resource-Challenged Environment.

There were 33 participants from nine different countries: Australia, Denmark, Madagascar, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United States and Zambia. Most of them were from different parts of the host country. Five members of the IARTEM board were present.

The participants were greeted by the Deputy Chief of Mission at The American Cultural Center / American Embassy in Antananarivo, where the conference took place. The IARTEM president, Susanne Knudsen, and the Conference Coordinator, Micheline Ravelonahary, addressed the audience before the Minister of Education in Madagascar opened the conference.

18 papers were presented in six different sessions, covering a range of issues related to textbooks and educational media. The titles of the sessions were

- How can textbooks and educational media be used effectively in African learning contexts?
- How can materials designed for well-resourced countries be adapted for use in resource-challenged environments?
- In what ways do textbooks and educational media help improve students' performance in the classroom?

- The importance of quality, evaluation and selection of textbooks and educational media.

Plenary discussions followed all sessions, allowing a very fruitful exchange of ideas and information. This also happened during lunch and coffee breaks every day, as well as during a conference dinner on the first night.

On the second day of the conference, participants were taken to a primary and a secondary school, where we met teachers, students as well as administrative and library staff. A visit was also arranged to the Teaching Resource Center in Antananarivo and we were also offered guided tours of the city.

Participants are invited to submit papers to the editor of the IARTEM e-journal, Mike Horsley, m.horsley@uws.edu.au
Guidelines can be found on the IARTEM web site:
<http://www.iartem.no/ejournal/notes.htm>
Papers will be peer reviewed.

The conference was very well organized and enjoyable, with transportation, delicious food and practical assistance readily available. Thank you very much to a wonderful organizing committee!



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Best European Schoolbook Awards

(www.schoolbookawards.org)

By: Preben Späth

In 2009 a new competition for the best schoolbooks in Europe will be launched. Educational publishers are welcome to take part in this annual competition.

The competition is co-organised by the Frankfurt Book Fair, IARTEM (the International Association for Research on Textbooks and Educational Media) and the EEPG (European Educational Publishers' Group). The main goal is to recognise and award high quality schoolbooks in Europe.

Participation is open to all European educational publishers and other providers of education materials and media.

The work of the jury is based upon eight general principles of quality and their relationship to the learning and teaching process. The principles are broad notions which have been developed by relating widely used concepts of quality to current learning and teaching theories. The evaluation of the titles will be carried out on the basis of the following principles: Relevance, Transparency, Reliability, Attractiveness, Flexibility, Generativeness, Participation, and Socialisation. Please see the detailed definitions of these criteria on the web site of the competition: <http://www.schoolbookawards.org> .

The members of the Best European Schoolbook Award jury are listed below - seven of them are working members of IARTEM:

- Bente Aamotsbakken, Professor at Vestfold University College, Tønsberg (Norway) [member of IARTEM]
- Christoph Bläsi, Prof. Dr., Study of the Book, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany)
- Carlo Serra Borneto, former Professor for German and Applied Linguistics at the University of Roma I "La Sapienza" (Italy)
- Jana Huttova, Senior Advisor, Education Support Programme, Open Society Foundation, London (United Kingdom) [member of IARTEM]
- Jean Claude Lasnier, former Head of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry Language training centres network, Le Havre (France)
- James McCall, MA, Deputy Director of the Centre for Publishing Studies, University of Stirling (United Kingdom) [member of IARTEM]
- Jaan Mikk, Doctor of Education, Professor at University of Tartu (Estonia) [member of IARTEM]
- Arno Reints, Doctor, Director of CLU, Utrecht University (The Netherlands) [member of IARTEM]
- Staffan Selander, Professor at the Institute for Didactics, University of Stockholm (Sweden) [member of IARTEM]
- Preben Späth, Director of the EEPG, Senior Lecturer at the University of Ålborg (Denmark) [member of IARTEM]

Textbook Institutions

The Japan Textbook Research Center

By: Akira Ninomiya

Executive Vice-president, Hiroshima University, Japan

Japan Textbook Research Center, which was established in 1976 by the group of textbook publishers aims to offer the research results to their membership publishers to improve the quality of textbooks, and aims at contributing to the progress of school education through textbook studies. It is located in Tokyo. The followings are the main research projects which were organized and conducted by the Center:

- Japan/US Joint Studies on Social Studies Textbooks (1979-80)
- The Compilation of a Complex Index of the Contents of the Japanese Language Textbooks Since the End of the World War II (1983-86)
- The Comprehensive Study on Improvement of Textbook Quality (1986-88)
- The Basic Research on the Function of Textbooks as Learning Materials (1992-94)
- A Study on the Format of Textbooks and Its Educational Effects (1997-99)
- A Comparative Study on the Textbooks of Reading and Language in Other Countries focused on the Achievement of the Pupils (2006-07)
- A Comparative Study on the Textbooks of Mathematics and Science in Other Countries (2008)

In addition to those researches, the Center has launched several studies on the textbooks of some subjects like language, social studies, mathematics, and science. Or it studies on use of textbooks among teachers.

The Textbook Library is attached to the Center and it has more than 110,000 volumes. It has not only Japanese school textbooks but also those of foreign countries.

(<http://www.textbook-rc.or.jp>)

Schooling and Masters in the field

What makes an effective textbook? 3rd edition of succesful course

On April 27-28-29, 2009 a three day course on **textbook writing and evaluation** will be organized in Utrecht, The Netherlands. After a successful running of the courses in February and September 2008 with 30 participants from all over the world, the course will be organized now for the third. The course leaders are James McCall (The Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication) and Arno Reints (CLU. University of Utrecht). The course is meant for educational publishers, teachers, educational quality managers , ministries of education etc.

How to obtain the quality of textbooks will be the leading theme of the course. The course is organized around four categories for evaluation:

- quality of content
- pedagogical approach

- design and presentation
- production standards

The cost for the three day course will be € 645. For registration and information, please send an email to a.reints@clu.nl