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## Editorial

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Chan, L. et al (2002) *Budapest Open Access Initiative*. New York: Open Society Institute. <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml> (Retrieved 22 January 2007)

## Editorial

Welcome to this edition of JIL. On a macro-economic level it is interesting to assess Information Literacy (IL) against the backdrop of today's global economic downturn. I suspect we are set to observe the heightened need for IL within various disciplines, and of course as a discipline within itself, when there is increased pressure on costs, the stakes are raised, and the value of information as a commodity becomes more precious. Setting this against the shift in the control of information, as witnessed over the past decade, from formal publishing to the explosion of user-generated content, raises the question of a possible correlation between economy, information load and the need for information literacy. In short, as economies contract will we see a greater urgency in the need for information literacy?

In this issue of JIL, Badke's paper provides a rationale for information literacy as a credit-bearing discipline. Dotan and Aharony, using a wide sample, establish the relations between school library media specialists and teachers and provision of information literacy programs to students in Israeli high schools. Sales evaluates a student-centred approach to IL learning through a focus on language students.

Crawford's article from practice gives an interesting insight into the world of an information literacy activist, recounting his visit to the US, which he uses as a vehicle to inform us of the successes of the Scottish Information Literacy Project. Gonzalez, from the perspective of the University of Puerto Rico, outlines the challenges of providing IL programmes on a vast scale across many sites.

Our book review section will be of interest to many readers; one highlight being the review of Tara Brabazon's *University of Google*. Tara's appearance at LILAC 2008 in Liverpool, and her commitment to IL, has been an inspiration to many.

We are delighted to announce a publishing collaboration with the Emerald title Reference Services Review (RSR). This will allow us to co-publish content across both titles. Emerald Publisher Eileen Breen says that since work goes on all over the world in IL, this agreement between RSR and JIL provides a connection between what's happening in the field in North America as reported in RSR; and European and rest of the world work as reported in JIL. Readers of both will benefit by gaining access to selected work from different geographical areas beyond those normally served by the host journal.

Although JIL is open access OA, the agreement with RSR provides a means of disseminating selected JIL authors' work directly to an opted-in community of interest via the Emerald platform –approaching 2,500 organisations worldwide. Conversely, selected North American authors writing for RSR will reach a dedicated OA audience after publication by Emerald.

In commending this issue of JIL to readers, I should like to thank both those who have contributed and the small team of hard working reviewers who give their time and considerable expertise to ensure consistent quality.

Ronan O'Beirne  
Editor-in-Chief