

*Fiftieth Anniversary of The Journal of
Educational Thought
(1967-2017)*

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In the previous issue of JET I mentioned something about the history of the journal over the last fifty years. JET has been an ongoing adventure for the Faculty of Education (now the Werklund School of Education) at the University of Calgary since 1967. In its present hard-copy only format this issue will likely be the very last. We have already digitized the entire journal from the beginning up to the present time and made it available on JSTOR so that all the earlier issues are presently available to anybody who is searching for an author or a title or a previous issue of the journal. Our next venture is to try to make the journal available on line directly to subscribers or to those who just wish to find an article directly by searching on the Internet. Our model is ultimately open access, though one of the things we have yet to think properly through is the question of how we can pay for this. We have identified free and useful software for journal hosting and are in the process of organizing the rental or the purchase of a server suitably programmed to help us edit and produce the journal on line.

Among the possibilities is to find a donor or a collection of donors who will support the journal indefinitely either by a large initial donation or a collection of ongoing donations by a group of donors. Another possibility, which does not terribly appeal to me personally, is for every article published in the journal for there to be a modest fee paid for by the author. In another journal that I edit for a large international publishing house the open access fee is \$3000 in US funds which is not a modest fee unless one has a research grant in which publishing of this nature is built in. Assuming that one can publish an average of six or seven articles in a journal number one would generate something like \$21000 per issue. This would likely be barely enough to keep the journal afloat if one had a full time editorial assistant. As we publish three issues per volume annually this would generate a maximum of \$63,000 per annum. This would have to pay for the preparation of the three issues, the main cost of this would be the salary of an editorial assistant, say at \$50,000 per annum. (Editors are free.)

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That would leave roughly \$13,000 to pay for the hard copy version of the journal that could go to subscribers who wanted the journal in that format. Though of course a hard copy version might prove in the long run unnecessary.

It is sometimes suggested that an online version of a journal has a greater international reach and makes the journal more prominent. This may be true but it is rather unclear. For example, our sister journal published out of the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta, The Alberta Journal of Educational Research, is now published entirely on line. It is a classy looking on line journal and one might expect its reach and impact to be significantly greater than that of JET. Yet Research Gate's measure of the impact factors for both journals suggests there are practically identical in this regard. This is also true of two other long time Canadian edited journals, the McGill Journal of Education and Interchange: A Quarterly Review of Education, both of which are online journals. The latter is presently both an online journal and a hard copy journal and for many years the official journal of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Yet their Research Gate impact factors are the same as the two Alberta journals. All of these prominent Canadian journals significantly lag equivalent American journals like the Harvard Educational Review in that regard. Some years ago when I visited Harvard and Columbia to talk journals I was told that Harvard gives every post-graduate a subscription to the Harvard Educational Review. That guaranteed a readership of over 10,000 at the time. Harvard's usual impact factor according to Research Gate is roughly three times that of JET and the others mentioned. Certainly a large guaranteed readership as a strategy would tend to affect the impact factor greatly. Indeed, if we could find a donor (or the Werklund School budget) willing to offer a copy of the Journal of Educational Thought to all of our MEd, M.A., MSc, EdD and PhD graduates in a similar manner one might reasonably suppose that the impact factor would rise. On the other hand, perhaps the best and most famous journal of philosophy in the English speaking world is the British journal MIND, which dates from the mid nineteenth century and has a very large subscription list, yet it's impact factor according to Research Gate is identical to that of JET. Whatever the secret to greater impact clearly for such a venture an online version of the journal would be the best approach as making the journal available on line does not add significantly to the unit cost.

Perhaps this is also a chance for "crowd funding" for a worthy cause. One would like to see the Journal of Educational Thought/ Revue de la Pensée Éducative around and thriving for another fifty years.

This present Theme Issue on Wellness in the Academy is edited by Jennifer Lock, Gabrielle Wilcox and Yvonne Kjørlien.

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