EDITORIAL

In and Beyond This Issue

In this issue, Majid and Tan conduct a questionnaire-based survey on reading habits and preferences of children, motivations behind reading, and their attitudes towards reading. A total of 440 upper primary students, aged between 9 and 12 years, from three primary schools in Singapore participated in this study. The major finding of the study is that, apart from the study-related reading, the free voluntary (leisure) reading is the third most preferred leisure activity after hobbies and playing on computer or the Internet and, in particular, girls are generally more avid readers than boys. The authors propose solutions to these problems by making concerted efforts from the educational administration in reducing workload of pupils, teachers, and parents in guiding children, and school and public libraries in providing access to more interesting and engaging reading materials.

Tella reports the results of a study examining ways in which the undergraduates' uses of the Internet and the implications on their academic performance are being transformed by the availability of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs). Three hundred and six undergraduate students selected from 13 departments at University of Botswana developed the study sample. The results of the study show that the Internet is being immensely used by the respondents mainly to obtain course-related information and it is least used for creating web pages. The results also reveal that a significant difference exists between the main and the lowest purpose of using the Internet. This study would assist the university to make informed ICTs investments decisions in the future.

Lin and Lin report on the development of a pioneering Wiki platform, TaiwanBaseballWiki created with Mediawiki 1.4 version in 2005, on which is an open platform for people to participate in digital preservation of baseball cultural assets. Data were collected and analyzed from the web log and web questionnaire filled by 86 users on the platform. The authors conclude by indicating several criteria for evaluation and suggesting that the platform should continue to promote baseball history pages and low viewing pages, as well as to design a user-friendly interface with new website styles suitable for young users.

Lee and Chao present a study that examines whether tools for developing e-learning courseware for the Digital Audio Processing Course can be satiable. Adobe Presenter, Articulate Presenter, PowerCam, Camtasia Studio, and Macromedia Captivate were utilized and compared according to the generalized psychomotor and procedural learning principles. The results provide useful guidance for devel-

oping application learning courseware.

Yu describes an exploratory study intended to advance understanding of "metadata" of information processing. The author argues that three perspectives of metadata from the domain of information processing, including function, literal, syntax and structure, and discusses the essence of metadata also from three different views, i.e. systems, data providers, and users. It is believed that a thorough and comprehensive definition for metadata in different scenarios will be eventually positive to users.

The book review in this issue presents the Chinese version of the French monograph, *Quand Google défie l'Europe* published in 2006. It is worthwhile to have the translated work reviewed and introduced, since the varied language versions have not ever been well-known for Taiwanese readers. Liu, the book reviewer, quotes the thought of the author Jean-Noël Jeanneney by raising critical questions on the cultural significance of making printed literature accessible online. Liu expresses his main concerns over the role of Chinese government and society in protecting and preserving the digitization of cultural assets.

The number of articles submitted to the *JoEMLS* for consideration has increased and they are contributed from many countries. The rejection rate for research articles and communication in this issue has reached 55.5%. The immediate effect of this is that it is more difficult to get a manuscript accepted for publication in the *JoEMLS* than it was 3 years ago. We anticipate that getting an article accepted by this journal will continue to become more difficult and maintain an appropriate rejection rate in-between 50% and 60% for the coming issues. We encourage authors of research articles to comply with the IMRAD format, i.e., Introduction, Methods/Materials, Results and Discussions. However, those articles which tend to be a qualitative research with literature analysis and great originality remain welcome.

Reduced time for publication is one of our goals, too. We are trying to design a project that enables full-text, peer-reviewed, copyedited articles to be immediately released online before articles are officially published in the form of print issue. Inevitably, this will create more workload for the editors, but it is worthwhile doing it for either the authors or readers.

Jeong-yeou Chiu
JoEMLS Editor