

EDITORIAL

The Year When *JoEMLS* Comes to Maturity and Confidence

At the turn of the years between 2008 and 2009, the *JoEMLS* will soon enter its 39th year of publication with a few new developments brought to readers' and authors' attention. These include changes of the editorial template and a new policy of Chinese Romanization reference. We expect there will be a conference held for the 40th anniversary celebration in 2010. For our 40th anniversary, I may imagine that *JoEMLS* would deserve more credit for its efforts, and enjoy its readers' and scholars' confidence. This occurs to me that Confucius said, "At thirty, I had planted my feet firm upon the ground. At forty, I no longer suffered from perplexities" (translated by Arthur Waley). For the life cycle of an academic journal, forty is the time when we can find our own niche in academic service and performance.

In this issue, volume 46(2), remarkable first-hand experiences are reported. Articles of problem-solving and decision-making on managing cross-languages information retrieval and library budget, deriving guidelines for curriculum design, information literacy, and launching policies to electronic publishing industry are generously revealed. These articles have demonstrated the importance of communication among scholars, librarians, and teachers.

The rejection rate of this Winter issue has reached 50% (with pending manuscripts factored out). However, if a manuscript resubmitted after revision is treated as a new contribution, then the rejection rate would be changed to 64%. The *JoEMLS* has first introduced online submission and peer-review system for years in Taiwan. Now, with the benefit of the system, the journal can easily provide those data for publication lag. During the year 2008, the journal has experienced a pleasing increase in the number and quality of manuscripts submitted for publication. The gap between acceptance and the actual publication is now around 97 days, but 54 days for producing the first run peer-review results to authors. As we know, a long publication lag may affect visibility and thus citation rate. Using online system is always treated as one of the ways to shorten the publication lag and improve communication among authors, reviewers, and editors. This sort of online systems, which deals both with Chinese and English manuscripts, remains to need significant improvement and promotion in the scholarly publishing market in Taiwan. Besides, it is believed that the online system will be considered as a necessity by editors, since it can benefit journal evaluation and ranking held by

the authorities.

Given the time constraints for producing a quarterly journal, the editorial staff are always well aware of having a tough job. The journal publishing is based on a keen awareness of the need to have ongoing dialogues with scholars for any improvement. *JoEMLS* is marching to its 40. It is standing firm and has no doubts for knowing its niche. Consequently, we could handle a difficult task with great ease for the years to come.

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JoEMLS Editor

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