

Editorial

David Mappin, Editor

In this the final issue of our silver anniversary volume we once again republish a number of CJEC articles. This time the three which have been chosen reflect either how our concerns in the field persist, or how far seeing our authors are, depending on your point of view. For the first of the retrospectives we have returned to 1987 and the special issue on computer-mediated communication. Given how ubiquitous these systems have become in our distance education and alternative delivery programs it is interesting to consider some of the perspectives from a decade ago. In his paper *Emancipative Educational Technology* Gary Boyd tries to “demonstrate why I believe that computer conferencing, in particular, is best suited to provide emancipative educational learning situations” (p. 179). It reminds us that the potential instructional uses of this type of learning experience are greater than are conventionally assumed and may prompt us to extend our own uses of it.

With the approval of a new standard of high definition television by the FCC in the United States and the beginnings of trials, and with the high quality images being beamed to us from satellites and promised through DVD, it seemed relevant to revisit the 1991 paper by Nikos Metallinos on the perceptual, cognitive, and aesthetic challenges which higher definition images and changes in image format may provide to the viewer and producer alike. With all of the emphasis in our field on computers and the web it may be well not to disregard newer, more commanding forms of older technologies. After all, North Americans continue to watch more television than many media scholars, social critics, and parents think they should.

Finally, as we now work in a computing environment where the acquisition and manipulation of images is easily and routinely done, we thought it might be interesting to revisit earlier thinking on the use of computer graphics. From 1986 we have chosen a review of the literature on the effective use of computer graphics in CAI. I hope you enjoy it.

The remaining two articles in this issue address new scholarship in media education. In the first article, Alice Yuet Lin Lee takes a technological approach to analyzing media, proposing an alternative way to undertake media education. In the second, Eugene Kowch and Keith Walker argue the importance of moral and ethical education in preparing students to deal with the Internet and the often questionable content to be found there.