

Editorial: The Silver Jubilee of the Journal of Research in Reading

This first issue of the 25th volume celebrates 25 years of output from the *Journal of Research in Reading*. Tony Pugh, at the Open University and University of Leeds at the time, was the founder Editor of the journal of the first issue in 1978. Tony had the idea for the journal and at a British Psychological conference on reading at York in the Spring of 1976 Hazel Francis and Colin Harrison agreed to join him in circulating a proposal seeking sponsors for a refereed journal. This proposed journal would provide a forum for researchers in Britain and Europe who were concerned with the study of reading. The proposal attracted support from several European researchers and the United Kingdom Reading Association (UKRA) as a result of the interest of Asher Cashdan, John Chapman and Donald Moyle, who were members of its executive committee. UKRA published the first four volumes, with the Editor overseeing printing and distribution until Holt, Rinehart & Winston took over publication on behalf of UKRA from Volume 4 (1982). Blackwell Publishers took over the production of the journal from Volume 8 in 1985. The Co-Editors at the start were Tony Pugh (Editor), John Chapman, Colin Harrison and Jean Palmer (Editor of Reading).

Tony Pugh edited the journal for four and a half years before editorship was passed on to Colin Harrison at the University of Nottingham. Colin Harrison's editorial in the second issue of the fourth volume refers to the original principles of a rotating editorship and of a forum for European researchers who do research in reading. However, even by that stage the geographical spread of subscribers and contributors was already extending well beyond that horizon. The Editorial Board listed for Volume 4, then as now, consisted of the Editor and Co-Editors: by then the membership was Greg Brooks, John Chapman, Tony Pugh and Jan Ulijn. Jan Ulijn left the Editorial Board only recently, but Tony Pugh and Greg Brooks continue to serve on the Editorial Board, and very actively too.

A major strength of the journal has been to have long-serving members on the Editorial Board who have maintained its vision and who have provided encouragement and help over the years. A full list of the Editors over the 25-year span is provided in Table 1, which shows how in several cases Co-Editors returned to the Editorship role in order to maintain focus and continuity. The Editorial Advisory Group in Volume 4, as in Volume 1, was drawn mainly from European countries. Now it still has a European bias, but it has several other members from further afield. The remaining members of the Editorial Advisory Group from Volume 1 are David Moseley, Peter Pumfrey and Denis Vincent.

Table 1. A list of editors of *Journal of Research in Reading* over 25 years

Editor	Volume and Issue numbers
Tony Pugh	1.1–4.1
Colin Harrison	4.2–7.1
Greg Brooks	7.2–9.1
Geoffrey Underwood	9.2–13.1
Denis Vincent	13.2–16.2
Mary Neville	17.1
Mary Neville and Denis Vincent	17.2
Denis Vincent and Greg Brooks	18.1
Denis Vincent	18.2
Tony Pugh	19.1–19.2
Chris Singleton	20.1–23.3
John Beech	24.1–

Chris Singleton in his ‘farewell’ editorial in Issue 3 of Volume 23 showed the wide range of topics by listing the major areas that the journal had covered in his four-year editorial period. During his term the number of papers published almost doubled compared with the term of his immediate predecessor. While I have been Editor I have edited just three issues so far and during that time we have accepted 21 papers for publication. As I write this we are currently reviewing 16 submissions and have rejected a further 15 papers during my term, which gives a rejection rate of 42%, as a proportion of accepted and rejected papers added together. Generally the time from submission to publication is relatively fast compared to other journals; however, we are getting an increasing volume of submissions and may not be able to continue this fast turn-round to quite the same degree in the future.

There are two minor changes from Volume 25 that potential contributors should note. First, from this issue we have adopted APA style conventions, but with British punctuation and spelling. Second, the front page of the submission should only have the title and omit the name of the author(s) so that we can have anonymous reviewing.

A journal is very much a product of how it is perceived in the academic community and there is no doubt that it has been a continuing success, with an expanding readership both in terms of the sales of the hard copy version of the journal and in terms of the numbers of people throughout the world who access us on the Web. The healthy continuing input of good quality submissions is another aspect of our success. Anyone browsing our tables of contents can see that we cover a wide range of topics with a very broad geographical spread of contributors. I have processed or am processing 52 papers so far and of these 46.2% are from the UK, 7.6% from the rest of Europe and 46.2% from elsewhere. All these factors contribute to our most important aim: to maintain and improve the quality of research papers and theoretical reviews in our journal.

Finally I would like to thank on behalf of my current Co-Editors all those from the past 25 years or more who have contributed to the journal by their submissions, by their editing, refereeing, or by their administrative or financial contributions. More specifically, we would like to extend our warm gratitude to UKRA, Blackwell

Publishers, the present and past members of the Editorial Advisory Group and past members of the Editorial Board (the Co-Editors), to the authors who submit their papers to us, to the many people who have refereed their papers and to our subscribers. Here's to the next quarter of a century.

John R. Beech