Inaugural Editorial for Journal of Extensive Reading

A New Journal of Extensive Reading

We are very pleased to begin offering readers articles from our new peer-reviewed academic journal, the Journal of Extensive Reading!

In diverse learning settings all around the world, extensive reading (ER) programs and practices have grown to play a key role in the acquisition of language. In Japan, we have been fortunate to experience the spread of extensive reading together as a vibrant community of teachers, researchers, practitioners, publishers, and other enthusiasts.

The JALT Extensive Reading SIG has served as one hub of activity in the ER community. Since 2008, we have published Extensive Reading in Japan (ERJ), a journal that has highlighted best practices in ER, research, innovations, and of course books. ERJ serves an important purpose: it curates a variety of conversations about extensive reading that are of interest to a broad community of educators in Japan, and in other parts of the world. With this purpose in mind, ERJ editors work with authors to publish high quality articles that are highly readable and unencumbered by technical jargon that might intimidate some readers. As we all know from the main tenets of ER itself, when readers are overwhelmed by difficult vocabulary, texts lose their appeal and usefulness.

However, as we also know, different types of texts appeal to different types of readers, and serve different purposes. In 2011, the First World Congress in Extensive Reading in Kyoto highlighted the fact that an increasing number of teachers has begun researching and writing about ER with empirical methods consistent with the standards of the top academic journals in our field. The short papers in the First World Congress in Extensive Reading Proceedings showcased research that employed a variety of rigorous methodological approaches to explore and analyze the efficacy of extensive reading from many different angles. The goal of our new Journal of Extensive Reading is to provide an open platform for the publication of this type of research on an ongoing basis.

To create the Journal of Extensive Reading, or JER, we brought together an editorial board consisting of many of the top researchers in the field. Together, we crafted a call for papers that encourages research-based submissions that expand knowledge about ER's connection to language acquisition. We have also designed a blind peer-review system that ensures that submissions are fairly and rigorously vetted by experts in the field before being published.

We believe strongly in the open sharing of text that digital publishing now allows, and

this is why JER will not employ a subscription system that uses a paywall to limit readership to paying customers or institutions. ERJ already serves as a subscription-based journal aimed mostly at our SIG's members in Japan. With JER, we are seeking a worldwide readership, and to do this we have decided to keep the journal free and open.

By leveraging the cognitive surplus of our dedicated ER community, articles can be reviewed, edited, and laid out with no real publishing costs. Also, our relationship with JALT, our parent organization, allows us to publish on the JALT publications server very cheaply. Consistent with this ethos, JER's first article is an innovative piece by two leading scholars—Paul Nation and Laurence Anthony—that introduces a new free online repository of mid-frequency readers adapted from several high quality selections of English language literature.

Finally, you may notice that our first issue is actually just one article. This is by design: we believe that online publishing has the potential to shorten the lag time between academic article submission and publication, which is normally quite long. By publishing one article at a time rather than waiting for a whole issue to take form, we are hoping to guarantee a quick turnaround time while maintaining high standards of quality and academic rigor. Articles will thus appear here as they are available throughout the year, and one year's worth of articles will comprise a volume.

We hope that our new publication, the Journal of Extensive Reading, will serve an ever-growing ER community of teachers and researchers around the world. Happy reading!

JER's Founding Editors:

Thomas Bieri   *Nanzan University*
Mark Brierley   *Shinshu University*
Leslie Chivers   *Ohka Gakuen University*
Peter Hourdequin   *Tokoha Gakuen University*

* You can sign up to help with the publication of JER, or just to receive email notifications of new articles [here](#).