Work in progress. Editorial 2025

Georges-Louis Baron, Université Paris Descartes, France

For several decades IARTEM has explored the different research issues linked with textbooks and educational media, its life being punctuated by scientific meetings (initially in person and later hybrid) and publications that are sure signs of sound scientific activity in a quickly changing world.

The latest IARTEM international conference in Paris (Facing climate and societal change) showed an interesting dynamics, with numerous contributions from PhD students and young researchers coming from many countries. The proceedings are in the validation pipeline.

The e-journal, which has been active since 2007, is another important part in a system of dissemination of research. It aims at maintaining an original position: working according to the requirements of the international scientific community (double blind peer review) and remaining open to current educational practice, provided it has links with research.

The e-journal now has a modern publishing platform and is recognized by several national institutions assessing research. The committee has also managed to diversify the publications and is creating new sections aiming at bridging the gap between research, innovation and practice, between the creation and the use of educational resources.

Of course, this is not easy, and the e-journal has to confront the common issues faced by all academic journals (for example, producing and disseminating interesting knowledge comes in tension with the pressure exerted on researchers to accumulate publications that give them credit for progressing in their career). As with other journals, it is difficult to motivate reviewers to spend time on activities that are not well credited by the systems that evaluate researchers and do not benefit from a high priority. We are therefore very grateful to all those who accept to devote time to the journal.

We may also remark that since 2015 our journal has welcomed contributions in Portuguese and Spanish, but is not attracting many of them, which may be another sign of the dominance of English. But things may be moving on.

In accordance with the current policy, papers are published sequentially as soon as they are fully validated. So it is not easy to forecast what will exactly be published within the coming 12 months.

However, we may expect that new contributions will explore the problematic situation created by the last technological wave: tools using artificial intelligence. Current conversational robots, as is well known, are willing to elaborate on any subject. They usually do it in a very convincing tone, but at the risks and perils of users.

More generally, there is an abundance (and even an excess) of online resources that have not been directly produced (whether texts, images or videos) by a human author but by a system that is itself its own authority (and not a committee of peers or a human institution). This impacts what may be considered as "true" knowledge, that is to say knowledge that is trustworthy; the question is probably as old as the human species, but artificial intelligence raises new problems.

On the positive side, the new platforms offer powerful ways of accessing interesting resources that may be difficult to access otherwise, provided users are able and willing to criticise what is told to them. This is a crucial issue, which has begun to be studied in the IARTEM e-journal (see Graeske's article in volume 16, issue 1). Active research is being carried out. Hopefully, we'll soon get new interesting insights. Let us wait and see…