



Editorial

ITID 2.0

In its short life span, *Information Technologies and International Development (ITID)* has become one of the leading academic journals in the ICT4D field. This reputation has enabled the journal to become a key meeting point for the ICT4D intellectual community, promoting research-based dialogue between policy makers, academics, practitioners, and those who work in the private sector. Along the way we have made several significant changes to the journal. With the publication of volume 3 we became the first (and still only) MIT Press journal to offer open access to its articles. Today we announce a similarly important set of strategic changes in personnel and in our plans and vision for the future.

At the beginning of the 2007 academic year *ITID* cofounder and editor in chief, Ernest Wilson, was appointed dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California (USC). The Annenberg School is one of the world's premier communication and journalism programs and one of the few university centers with considerable faculty commitments in the *ITID* field.¹ With this move Ernie will remain centrally involved in *ITID* in his new role as the founding editor in chief, and François Bar will step in as coeditor in chief with Michael Best. François is an associate professor of communication at USC's Annenberg School. Over the past 20 years his research and teaching have centered on the social and economic impacts of information technologies with a specific focus on user-driven innovation and technology appropriation. More recently, his work has brought him to study these issues within the development context, in places ranging from East Africa to Latin America.²

We are confident our expanded team will take *ITID* to its next level of achievement.

Building on our strengths and the continuing contributions of our editorial and advisory boards, we plan to pursue many new and exciting opportunities that will enhance *ITID*'s global reach and impact. In the coming year, we will be exploring two important opportunities: building a more multimedia-rich, interactive publishing platform, and launching a Spanish-language Latin American edition.

As an open access journal we already have a strong online presence. To build on our open access status and promote richer dialogue among authors and readers, we intend to add several new features to the online version of the journal, for instance the ability for readers to post comments on articles, blogs for authors or guests, or wikis to support collaborations within our reader community. Further, we would like to add to the current Forum, Research Article, and Research Report sections by

1. *We are delighted and extraordinarily excited for Ernie! We offer him our sincere congratulations as he takes on this exceptional opportunity and look forward to a strong relationship between ITID and the Annenberg School.*—Michael and François

2. *Welcome François! We are thrilled to have you on the team and thank you for taking on the challenge.*—Ernie and Michael

offering new features such as interviews, book reviews, notes from the field (i.e., first-person practitioner accounts), and policy commentary. There are areas in the ICT4D community that are currently not well served; we want to add to the discussion and the community in innovative ways, and we welcome your input on the items you think would be most useful. As a first step, just send your thoughts and suggestions to itid-ed@mit.edu.

In addition, to broaden the journal's reach, we are exploring opportunities to launch a Latin American edition in Spanish. The Latin American edition will publish the same high-quality contributions as the English-language version and will have its own editor in chief and editorial board based in or focused on the region. In this edition we will publish peer-reviewed research articles solicited from scholars across Latin America or writing on Latin American topics. Additionally, just like *ITID's* flagship journal, it will offer online and interactive features. As a sibling publication these two journals will translate and cross-publish relevant material when appropriate, leverage shared production and hosting services, and fall under the same management. Given the growth of the ICT4D academic community in the past 10 years in Latin America and the limited publication outlets in the region, *ITID Latin America* will fill a critical need. If successful, this venture could serve as a model for other regional editions, in particular for Africa or Asia.

We are very excited about *ITID's* future possibilities and believe these two strategic initiatives will further strengthen the intellectual and policy debate surrounding ICT4D issues. Our ultimate vision is to create a broadly accessed, vibrant hub for scholarly discourse and interaction among the different actors of the ICT4D community. As we move forward, we look forward to receiving your feedback and working with you to build this next-generation *ITID*. ■

Ernest J. Wilson III

Michael L. Best

François Bar