



From the Editors

Announcing ITID 2.0

With this issue, we are thrilled to announce our enhanced online presence with the launch of our newly designed *ITID 2.0* Web site. The new Web site, located at www.itidjournal.org, brings together functionalities for browsing, searching and reading papers. It also serves as our online submission system for authors and reviewing system for our peer review team. Before this site upgrade, we had a limited submission management system for authors at the *ITID* journal Web site while all published material was only available from the MIT Press Web site. Now our single site includes enhanced author and reviewer facilities, as well as improved access to current and back issues for readers.

The new consolidated site offers many features, some of which require you to complete a free registration:

- An elegant and simple design that should make finding papers and information quick and easy.
- A selection of what we consider the most useful reading tools such as citation managers, interactive reader comment facilities, and tools to search for related works.
- Simple browsing and advanced search capabilities for the entire *ITID* archives.

We are delighted with the site and its new visual design, but still intend to grow its functionality while preserving its simplicity. Our partners at the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center, who direct the production and maintenance of the site, continue to look for ways to improve the online experience for all users. "The newly redesigned Web site relies on Web 2.0 technologies, open access principles, and open source software to create a synergistic reader site as well as a manuscript submission and peer-review management system. We hope the site can serve as a model of what libraries and scholars can accomplish together in the field of open access scholarly publishing," said Julie G. Speer, head of the Library's Scholarly Communication and Digital Services Division at Georgia Tech.

The Internet has fundamentally changed all aspects of scholarly communication. Top journals must continuously track (and invent) new ways to use the net that improve the publishing process and the readers' experience in order to foster a richer intellectual exchange. We believe that *ITID* shot ahead of this curve when we went open access with our third volume (the first open access journal published by the MIT Press). With our new Web site, we have moved further on this journey, now offering what we think is today's best-practice in online journal environments. We welcome your comments and suggestions at editors@itidjournal.org as we continue forward.

ITID by Post

We are sure that the changes to our online presence will benefit our authors and readers who are fortunate enough to enjoy broadband connections to the net. However, many of the most important members of our intellectual community may not currently have broadband access from their universi-

ties, offices or homes. While we are taking an important digital step forward with *ITID 2.0*, we are also pleased to announce a new lower-tech offering. Scholars in Least Developed Countries who would like to receive the entire corpus of past issues of *ITID* are invited to contact us at our editorial office (at editors@itidjournal.org or the postal address below). We will happily post a CD of all *ITID* back issues to you free of charge.

And Now To This Issue

The actual deployment of information and communication technologies never quite fits expectations about their potential. Variants in implementation, appropriation by users who re-shape ICTs according to their own ends, pre-existing economic or social processes, or bureaucratic rules are among the many factors that shape how ICTs ultimately find their place within people's real lives—for good, or bad. The four research articles in this issue provide empirically-based investigations of such gaps between expectations and reality, tracing the tensions, manipulations, adjustments, and obstacles marking the paths of key technologies and applications as they make their way to the lives of actual users.

Best and Kumar analyze the uneven fortunes of the telecenters deployed in India as part of the SARI project. They find that, over time, many have ceased operations, and conclude that sustainability largely depends on ongoing support, both financial and technological. Burrell examines the thriving activities of Internet scammers in West Africa, describing how scammers appropriate both Western technology and Western representations of Africa, manipulating them to serve their subversive ends. Jagun takes on the widespread expectations that mobile phones will dramatically reduce information asymmetries, thus empowering small entrepreneurs in developing countries. In his careful case study of mobile phone use by cloth-weavers in Nigeria, he shows a much more complex reality, where entrenched patterns of interaction, business and trust blend with mobile technology to preserve the power of intermediaries. Finally, Richardson investigates the role of ICTs in Cambodia's education reform, finding a substantial gap between hopes and reality. He traces that mismatch to the tension between the political process and the implementation of education reform.

We hope you will find these authors' explorations of how and why ICT implementation is transformed, for better or worse, by external factors not related to the technology itself to be informative, engaging, provocative, and useful. ■

François Bar

Michael L. Best