

Editorial

After many years of editorials by Mathijs Soede as Editor-in-Chief of *Technology and Disability*, this editorial is my first. As Mathijs already announced in his final editorial for the first issue of 2012, the board of AAATE accepted my nomination as the new Editor-in-Chief for the journal and my appointment was subsequently confirmed by IOS press.

So as of this issue it will be my pleasure to act as editor of this journal. The journal already has a long and impressive history on publishing scientific advancement in the field of Assistive Technology. I am happy to become part of this tradition and build further where Mathijs Soede, Joe Lane and William Mann already brought the journal. Personally, I feel very much part of this field on the basis of 15 years of research and activity in this domain in the Netherlands and beyond. Trained as Experimental Psychologist I did my PhD in Industrial Design Engineering and have been involved in finding ways to make technology meaningful and suitable in addressing human needs in relation to disability, chronic disease and long term care. I hope this background will enable me to contribute to the advancement of the journal and enhancing this important source of knowledge for the field of assistive technology in all its diversity.

As stated on the cover, the Association for Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE) is the patron of the *Technology and Disability* journal. I believe this is a strong point for the journal. The connection between this association of professionals in the domain of Assistive Technology and the *Technology and Disability* journal is potentially beneficial in both directions. The journal could profit from the tied network the association forms, its international activities and the wide variety of excellent research and expertise within the association. Conversely, the association members can and increasingly should benefit from the established position of the journal to publish their results and learn from colleagues around the globe. The association itself is happy to be able to offer subscription to the journal as part of the membership benefits. Given this potential I have the feeling the relation

and the mutual benefits are not fully developed yet and could be further extended.

I hope to be able to add to the strengthening of the position and impact of the journal for the Assistive Technology community in Europe and beyond. But it is of course very clear this cannot depend on me. Luckily, Bea Diederer who took care of the Editorial office so very well for all these years remains in office. This, together with the ongoing support of Mathijs made it possible for me to take over quite smoothly. Further, we took the organisation of the AAATE 2011 conference in Maastricht as an opportunity to update the group of our loyal and hard working reviewers. The result in the form of a renewed editorial board can be found on the initial pages of the journal and on the journals website. We believe we do these international experts some justice by acknowledging their efforts as members of the important editorial board of the journal. All the excellent and supportive reviews you receive after submitting your manuscripts to the journal were by their hands. Finally, the support of the team at IOS, with Marion Lilly as first contact, will be essential to the further success of the journal. I thank all for their efforts for the journal and the trust in me. I look forward to a bright future of the *Technology and Disability* Journal.

This second issue in the 24th volume contains a range of free papers covering applications of relative new technologies in support of a variety of needs and a paper on modelling the technology transfer process. I think it is very nice that Joe Lane still finds his way to “his” journal. All these papers had been accepted for publication in the traditional way before I came into office, but in the meanwhile we have taken the digital submission and paper handling system *msTracker* into use and are finding our way in making this work. As always, this comes with some initial hick-ups, but I am sure it will prove to be a further step in the professionalization of the journal very soon.

Gert Jan Gelderblom
Editor-in-Chief