

Editorial

Josep M. Duart

Director of RUSC and vice president for Postgraduate Studies and Lifelong Learning,
Open University of Catalonia (UOC)

The *Universities and Knowledge Society Journal (RUSC)* is celebrating its 10th anniversary. It therefore gives me great pleasure to present this issue, the first number of Volume 10. When we first began publishing this scientific journal 10 years ago, we had three clear ideas or objectives in mind. First, to promote, compile and disseminate the scientific output being generated on the relationship between education and the Internet, or e-learning as it is known today. Second, to provide a platform for the presentation of studies that revealed and analysed the principal changes taking place in universities in the information and knowledge society era. And third, to do all of this in a journal that would be openly accessible to all researchers and, of course, distributed via the Internet. While these proposals were very new 10 years ago, we are pleased to note that other publications on similar themes have since emerged, and that more and more open-access scientific e-journals are now available. *RUSC* was pioneering in the field of universities, e-learning and the network society. And, 10 years on, it has every intention of remaining at the forefront of that field by providing the scientific community with a quality space for networked collaboration and scientific visibility.

Today, *RUSC* is a consolidated journal that is listed in the most prestigious academic indices and important scientific databases. We publish all articles in Spanish and English to facilitate the dissemination of scientific works among scholars in these two extensive language communities. Over this 10-year period, we have published 10 volumes of *RUSC* (18 numbers), which have included a total of 200 articles. Of these, 114 have appeared in 18 monographic Dossiers on a variety of current scientific themes connected with e-learning, universities and the network society. Many research authors have chosen to have their works published in our journal, and renowned experts have accepted the important task of coordinating the monographic Dossiers on each thematic area covered. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all of them in this 10th anniversary year.

Our Scientific Editorial Board currently has 46 members. Our commitment to expanding the international scope and global presence of *RUSC* is reflected in the composition of the Editorial Board: 13 members are from Spain, seven from Mexico, four from Chile, two from Colombia, two from Argentina, one from Brazil, one from Peru, one from Uruguay, one from Puerto Rico, five from Canada, four from the United States, one from the Netherlands, one from Belgium, one from Portugal and two from Asia. We would like to thank all current and former members for their invaluable contributions, which have undeniably helped the journal to grow and become what it is today.

As a scientific journal, *RUSC*'s mission is to disseminate scientific output and to unite all researchers with an interest in universities in the knowledge society. We would like to express our thanks to *RUSC*'s readers and more than 2,000 subscribers.

Please allow me to cite some data that give an idea of the volume of our journal's followers. In the first 11 months of the year (January-November 2012), the *RUSC* website had 62,064 visits, 41,085 of which were unique. Over the same period, there was a total of 18,755 downloads of articles in PDF format, representing an average of 1,705 downloads per month.

And we continue to advance. Coinciding with our 10th anniversary, we are delighted to announce the *RUSC* joint publication agreement that has been reached between the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and the University of New England (UNE), Australia. UNE is a university whose renowned research quality and academic prestige make it outstanding. It has extensive experience in the field of e-learning and, among other research centres, it coordinates DEHub (Distance Education Hub). DEHub also has a collaboration agreement with the UOC eLearn Center, and both of these important university-affiliated research centres will become editors of *RUSC* too. As the joint publication agreement allows us to offer our authors a much wider audience, *RUSC* becomes a global scientific journal of choice for the analysis and study of universities, e-learning and the network society. Dr Ros James, a lecturer at UNE and the director of DEHub, will be the co-director of *RUSC* as from this number. Lecturers and researcher from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and other countries will gradually join our Scientific Editorial Committee. There are a number of major development projects in the pipeline for *RUSC*, and we will let you know about these in the near future.

The first number of Volume 10, which we are presenting here, includes a monographic Dossier on "The Informalisation of Education" coordinated by Albert Sangrà, Director of the UOC eLearn Center, Spain, and Steve Wheeler, Associate Professor at Plymouth University, United Kingdom. The convergence between different elements of formal, non-formal and informal education in technology-mediated or technology-supplemented environments is now evident. The selected articles in this monographic Dossier bring to light the results of research into open educational resources (OERs), the professionalisation of teaching in universities, and the potential of sharing experiences of teaching activities, among others. In addition, the Research Articles section contains six articles on various themes connected with the thematic areas of our journal. We hope that you will find them interesting and useful for your research.

As director of *RUSC*, I would like to thank everyone for all the work done jointly over the past 10 years, which has allowed us to position *RUSC* among the benchmark scientific journals in the same or similar fields of knowledge. I would particularly like to thank the members of the Editorial Board and the Scientific Editorial Board for their involvement in making timely decisions on submitted manuscripts after rigorous peer review; the editorial secretary, Elsa Corominas, whose coordination work has made every number of the journal possible; the translator and copy editor for the English editions, Steven Norris, whose professionalism has contributed to the harmonisation of the specific terminology of the journal's thematic areas; the editorial assistant, Toni Pujades, for his meticulous and timely work; and the UOC Internet Publications team, Lluís Rius and Maria Boixadera, who have always helped us and actively fostered the journal's growth.

Finally, a big thank you once again to the authors of the 200 published articles and to the journal's readers and subscribers for placing their trust in us.

Congratulations on the journal's 10th anniversary!

Josep M. Duart

Director of *RUSC*

Vice president for Postgraduate Studies and Lifelong Learning,
Open University of Catalonia (UOC)