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Editors' Preface

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Editors' Preface

We are excited about this issue of the *Journal of Interpretation* (JOI) for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that we are stepping out into the electronic world of publications. It's exciting for us as editors to see the JOI move forward into this ever-changing arena of web-based, electronic journals. This change from a printed journal to an electronic one is a positive one, but at the same time we know change can be daunting. We ask that you bear with us, embrace the new publication format, and look forward with us to the many benefits of what going online will bring to our profession and to RID as a lead organization in the field.

We trust you will come to recognize that the benefits to being online outweigh the printed journal you have received in the mail. Here are but a few of the benefits that we anticipate:

- **Quicker access:** With online publication of the JOI, members will now have quicker access to the journal. From the moment we “publish” the journal with a keystroke, you can access it instantly - no more waiting for it to be printed and mailed.
- **Easier access:** Having the JOI online allows you to access it whenever you want, wherever you are, and whenever you need it. In the coming months, we will begin adding past issues to the online JOI archives. What a great treasure this will be – all of the past JOI articles fully accessible online.
- **Greater access:** For those of you who have ever done research in a library or online database, you may have noticed that the JOI does not usually return within search results. This is due to the fact that the journal is not part of the major academic databases or search engines and keywords, descriptors, and other metadata have not been included or submitted. RID is committed to making the JOI fully accessible to the greater community of researchers and scholars. This will be a great benefit of the online JOI. The work of the many scholars who publish in the JOI will be a part of the online databases. This means the hard work of authors will have a much further reach than before, and we will no longer need to track down hard journal copies to access the information. This is a great benefit to interpreting students as well as newer RID members who do not have access to prior journals.
- **Enhanced Flexibility:** The beauty of online, electronic publishing is we are no longer bound by the restraints of space (how long an article can be), financing (how large the JOI can be for mailing purposes), time (when the JOI can be published), or issues (one per year). As editors, we look forward to being able to publish longer pieces and are less worried about whether a manuscript is much too long for the limitations of a printed copy. Look for an announcement in the coming months about a rolling submission process whereby manuscripts will be reviewed year round and published sooner than was possible with a print-only option. Again, the beauty of online publishing is the ability to publish an issue once enough articles have been accepted for publication. We believe the JOI will be a more competitive venue for publication and more attractive to scholars who seek a journal that will reach a broader audience in the shortest amount of time possible.
- **Smoother Submission and Review Process:** One fantastic enhancement will be the online submission and review process. The online journal platform includes a state-of-the art editorial review system. Authors will submit their manuscripts online and we (as editors) can review it online, assign the manuscript to reviewers, and notify them that the manuscript is ready for review. They will review the submission online and provide the review comments and recommendations electronically, which can all be shared with the author. We anticipate a much quicker turnaround time for providing authors with feedback and a more streamlined, less cumbersome, review process for authors and reviewers alike. We do, however, commit to maintaining the excellence in customer service we have offered to authors in the past. We will continue to nurture new authors in developing the highest quality manuscripts possible. We are proud of the attention we give to each manuscript and author and the individual assistance we can provide to those authors who have manuscripts accepted for publication with revisions.
- **Access to Print on Demand and Paper Copies:** Each article published in the JOI will be available for print as needed and full print copies will be available on www.lulu.com for a

minimal fee. Authors will receive a free hard copy of the JOI from Lulu. Access to the JOI will be password protected and continue to be a benefit of RID membership.

The transition of the JOI from a printed journal to an online journal has not occurred without a lot of work. The editors spent a lot of time reviewing various options available for online publishing and worked closely with Tina Schultz (Senior Director of Member Programs and Services) and Lindsey Walter (Communications Manager) from the national office. Together, we identified a platform that meets the needs of everyone involved and does not present a financial hardship for the organization. We are grateful to Dr. Shirley Hallblade, Dean of the Library at the University of North Florida (UNF), for her assistance and willingness to partner with RID and allow the JOI to use the *Digital Commons* electronic publishing platform at UNF. This partnership allowed us to use the platform we felt best met our needs at a cost that is within budget. A special thank you to Michael Kucsak, Director of Library Systems and Technology at UNF, who went above and beyond in assisting us, in particular Len, with the design and set-up of the JOI site and who continues to assist us with the ongoing work of online publishing.

We believe you will find a wealth of information in the *pages* (yes, they are still called *pages*, whether on your screen or in print) of the excellent articles in this issue. This issue covers several important topics including preparedness for interpreting in specialized settings, interpreting in legal settings, mental health interpreting, video remote interpreting in courts, self-assessment of ASL competency, and faithful interpretations. Our hope is that you will deem the research and the information beneficial and worthwhile.

We close with two important reminders. First, this issue of the JOI, like each issue before it, could not be possible without the very committed team of reviewers who serve on the Editorial Board. They do an amazing job of reviewing numerous manuscripts and providing us with detailed feedback amidst their busy schedules. Anyone who has had an article accepted for publication can attest to the detailed feedback they receive from our reviewers. As editors, we could not do our job without our reviewers and we *thank them* for their work. Our second *gentle* reminder is to you, the membership of RID. We need you to submit your scholarly work to the JOI. If you recall, the JOI's mission is to publish a "broad scope of scholarly manuscripts, research reports, and practitioner essays and letters relevant to effective practices in the signed language interpreting profession" (see the JOI page on RID's website - <http://www.rid.org/publications/joi/index.cfm/AID/112>). To accomplish this mission, we need you to share your work with us. We are ready to start the review process for the 2012 issue and look forward to your submission in the near future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the RID membership as JOI editors. We are honored for the privilege of maintaining the JOI's high standards for publishing works that are informative, inspiring, timely, and relevant to your work as interpreters. We anticipate that the JOI will continue to expand and improve in the coming years. If you have feedback on the new online publication, please feel free to contact us at len.roberson@unf.edu or sherry.shaw@unf.edu. May you have a productive and insightful year!

Warm regards,

Len Roberson
Sherry Shaw