



## Introduction from the President

As I prepare to hang up my white and gold braid presidential uniform for the last time, it's time to reflect on what a tremendous year of achievement it's been for ALT, starting with the award of Honorary Lifelong Membership to Keith Duckitt and ending with recognition of the very first Certified Members of ALT (CMALT). In between we have seen ALT increasingly referenced by government departments, funding councils, the Higher Education Academy and the Research Assessment Exercise as an important independent player in the arena of technology-enhanced learning with expertise and views that matter. At the same time we have successfully established a significant presence in Further Education and the training industry. We are well on our way to achieving our strategic goal of being the leading independent Learning Technology organisation in the UK, and we are ideally placed to take advantage of the renewed interest in e-learning as shown by recent government, JISC and HEFCE policy statements.

It has been immensely satisfying and great fun working with so many great people to help ALT grow into a thriving and professional organisation over the last 6 years. ALT will, I'm sure, go from strength to strength, but for me it's time to hand back the keys of the presidential stretch limo... It only remains to thank the ALT officers for their unstinting support and my employers De Montfort University for so generously contributing my time to the cause of Learning Technology.

**Stephen Brown, President, 2004-05**

## Chair's report

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of ALT this year. I am effectively the first Chair elected by a new open procedure that should ensure ALT continues to evolve into a transparent and influential organisation. I have worked with dedicated, full-time members of staff and with committee chairs, all of whom I thank for their hard work. But it is the growing number of individual and organisational members that I take my hat off to; you make ALT a vibrant and increasingly influential organisation. Signs of ALT's growing influence include the fact that our nomination for the Research Assessment Exercise sub-panel for Education was accepted and that ALT is mentioned in HEFCE's E-Learning Strategy Implementation Plan.

Key activities last year included ALT successfully taking in house, for the first time, ALT-C. ALT also responded to various policy documents, launched CMALT (a professional accreditation scheme for members) and continued to grow FE and ACL membership through the help of our FE Advisory Committee. Next year we will consolidate on these activities and perhaps streamline the committee structures in order to make ALT (I hope) even more responsive to members' needs and influential on the national and international front. I move on to become President of ALT for 2005-6 and look forward taking a back seat and leaving the hard work to my capable successor, Jane Seale.

**John Cook, Chair, Central Executive, 2004-05**

## Executive Secretary's and Director's Report

It is clear from the rest of this report that ALT is making strong progress on several fronts.

Here we highlight a few key developments which are not covered elsewhere in the report. We have:

- finalised a long-term hosting contract with Oxford Brookes University;
- worked with DfES to develop a response to the RAE 2008 consultation on RAE Panel Draft Criteria and Working Methods that takes account of the learning technology research discipline;
- reviewed our collaborative activities with SURF and ASCILITE in preparation for renewing our Memoranda of Understanding in 2006-07;
- begun to develop a partnership agreement with the JISC;
- organised a joint event with JISC infoNet (IT won't work here);
- made a successful bid with JISC infoNet for funds from the HEFCE Leadership, Governance and Management Fund to run a project on Collaborative Approaches to the Management of Lifelong Learning (CAMEL);

- exchanged membership with the US Sloan Consortium;
- implemented an online booking system for ALT events;
- revised the membership fee structure for organisational members, for implementation in 2005-2006, so that the membership fee will vary according to the size of the member-organisation;
- introduced a new open policy and process for determining the membership of ALT committees;
- begun discussions internally with a view to taking on two further members of staff to cope with growth;
- improved our financial management and reporting to give Trustees clearer information about our financial performance;
- initiated the establishment of a new ALT Research Committee.

ALT continues to “punch above its weight”. This is partly due to the excellent work of Marion O’Dea, Operations Manager, Hayley Willis, Events Administrator, and Sue Garrett, Administration Officer. But above all it reflects the committed and enthusiastic unpaid work of individual office holders and members, and the strong support ALT has had over the year from many of our organisational members. We here record our thanks for this.

**Seb Schmoller, Executive Secretary, and Rhonda Riachi, Director**

## **Events Executive**

2005 was a year of consolidation for EX. We have welcomed many new members onto the committee and have a new Vice-Chair (John Phelps). I will be standing down from the Chair at this year’s AGM, and wish EX all the best. I have enjoyed my three years in the Chair, as ALT has gone through a tremendous transformation.

Seeing the Association take the management of ALT-C through a full, mature cycle has been very satisfying and congratulations are due to the whole team. It seems each year that expectations are exceeded. Here’s to the continued upward trajectory!

The Spring Conference in Dublin in association with ILTA as well as our long-standing partners, SURF, added the topic of ubiquitous computing to the themes of digital repositories and e-portfolios. This conference is growing in importance as an observatory on the latest trends in learning technology. We look forward to returning to the Netherlands in 2006.

Workshops have been less well attended than we would have wished, and we are looking to develop a structured programme in support of the CMALT scheme.

I wish the new Chair all the best with this and the many challenges ahead.

**George Roberts, Chair, Events Executive, 2004-05**

## **Further Education Advisory Committee**

The membership of FEAC has increased from the inaugural group of 4 FE representatives which met in January 2004 to 11 members. This expansion has brought wider representation, both geographically and from different parts of the FE sector, which provides a sound foundation on which to pursue FEAC’s remit to ‘align ALT’s strategic direction and activities to encompass the FE sector’.

The committee has had one face-to-face meeting and one telephone conference meeting this year. Here is a summary of FEAC’s work in 2004-05.

- Expansion of FEAC membership.
- Induction of FEAC members.
- Consideration of FEAC’s role in ALT-C.
- Encouraging more reference to the FE sector in other ALT committees.
- Representation to ALT on FE issues (e.g. the effect of LSC funding changes on information and learning technology in England).
- Planning a national conference for FE and ACL practitioners and leaders in partnership with LSDA. The conference, *E-learning - making it work*, will be held in London on 13 October 2005.
- Liaising with LSC concerning the cut in LSC funding to the JISC.

**Cathy Ellis, Chair, Further Education Advisory Committee, 2004-05**

## Membership Executive

The membership committee has welcomed the increase in further education, corporate and individual members over the past year and has been monitoring the services members receive. This year the membership committee has focused on:

- reviewing the membership benefits across different categories of members such as individual and institutional members and considering “What ALT can do for you?” and “What we would like you to do for ALT”;
- producing a new definition of a learning technologist (following much discussion);
- supporting and discussing the new CMALT accreditation scheme;
- encouraging developments to the ALT web site;
- defining the role of Special Interest Groups.

**Barbara Newland, Chair, Membership Executive, 2004-05**

## Publications Executive

In 2004-05 the activities of the publications committee have been focused on:

- developing ALT-N into an online publication with a shorter printed bulletin - the online version went live in July 2005;
- continuing to raise the profile of the journal, ALT-J;
- updating the Editorial Policy, the general principles which guide the work of all those involved in editing ALT Publications and ensure quality - revised version released June 2005;
- extending the scope of Occasional Publications in the areas of international and FE.

For the coming year, the activities of the committee will be focused particularly on:

- monitoring the success of ALT-N online and preparing plans to cope rapidly with growth of demand;
- developing further the links of occasional publications to the Spring Conference;
- continue to develop ALT-J, in the run-up to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

**Paul Bacsich, Chair, Publications Executive, 2004-05**

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## Members of ALT Committees 2004-05

### Central Executive (Trustees and ex-officio staff members)

Paul Bacsich  
Stephen Brown (President)  
Gayle Calverley (Hon Secretary)  
John Cook (Chair)  
Jay Dempster  
Cathy Ellis  
Barbara Newland  
Marion O'Dea (ALT Operations Manager)

John Phelps  
Rhonda Riachi (ALT Director)  
George Roberts  
Seb Schmoller (ALT Executive Secretary)  
Jane Seale (Vice-Chair)  
John Slater (Hon Treasurer)

### Events Executive

Skip Basiel  
Jane Charlton  
Lesley Diack  
Nick Jeans  
John Phelps (Vice-Chair)  
Rhonda Riachi (ALT Director)  
Phil Riding

George Roberts (Chair)  
Bernard Scott  
Steven Warburton  
Hayley Willis (ALT Events Administrator)

## **Further Education Advisory Committee**

Stephen Brown  
David Dyet  
Cathy Ellis (Chair)  
Rachel Harris  
Iain Howie  
Christine McAllister  
Marion O'Dea (ALT Operations Manager)

Kevin Palmer  
Fred Pickering  
Pete Richardson  
Malcolm Ryan  
David Sugden  
Markos Tiris  
Seb Schmoller (ALT Executive Secretary)

## **Membership Executive**

Linda Creanor  
Carol Higgison  
Terri Kinnison  
Barbara Newland (Chair)

Marion O'Dea (ALT Operations Manager)  
Alison Robinson  
Seb Schmoller (ALT Executive Secretary)  
David Sugden

## **Publications Executive**

Paul Bacsich (Chair)  
Gayle Calverley  
Grainne Conole  
John Cook  
Gabriel Jacobs  
Graham McElearney

Morag Munro  
Martin Oliver  
Susi Peacock  
Rhonda Riachi (ALT Director)  
Seb Schmoller (ALT Executive Secretary)  
Jane Seale  
Julie Voce

**ALT, September 2005.**

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