

---

## **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

by Jarek Krajka

[jkrajka@batory.plo.lublin.pl](mailto:jkrajka@batory.plo.lublin.pl)

The first, January, issue of "Teaching English with Technology", a free electronic journal published by IATEFL Poland Computer Special Interest Group, met enormous response of teachers and educators from all over the world. The letters written to the editor by subscribers indicate the fact that there is a demand for a publication of a purely practical type, made by teachers and for teachers, including articles describing practical applications of technology in the school reality, plans of lessons actually executed in the classroom, reviews of websites used in language learning or ELT software reviews. Also, it has been emphasised by some subscribers that the journal is even more valuable because of the fact that it is created in a non-native English speaking country, by people who actually had to learn English themselves before they started teaching others. Thanks to that, it seems that non-native teachers' own learning experiences add additional element to the value of the journal.

As the editor, I am honoured to present the second issue to the subscribers, which I do with my utmost pleasure. When comparing the first and the second issue, we can see that the journal stops being only Polish, but becomes international. This issue features the review of Gavin Dudeney's notable book *Internet and the Language Classroom*, written by Phil Brabbs working in the Czech Republic. What is more, I would like to welcome Jozsef Horvath, PhD, as a volunteer member of the editorial board, who helps me to make the journal. I am really grateful for his commitment, taking into account that this means hard work and no pay.

This issue of the journal contains the article on using technology to teach English to blind students, "Computers as Communication Tools in the English Class – Their Significance in Mainstream Schooling," written by Jarosław Wiązowski. The article is especially worth reading, as it discusses the author's own experiences of using computers in teaching the blind. In *Internet Lesson Plans* section, I would like to draw your attention to the plan of an ESP lesson, English for Law, by Agnieszka Gawlik. The author shows the great possibilities given by the Internet to the ESP class, filling the gap difficult to bridge with conventional teaching methods. This issue of the journal comprises a new section, *A Word from a Techie*, which will include discussions of technical aspects of teaching and learning with technology. This time, Jarek Krajka writes how to create a discussion group for one's course, in order to enhance learning and keep in online touch with students or teacher trainees during and after the course.

It is hoped that “Teaching English with Technology,” the new journal for teachers using technology, computers and the Internet in their teaching, will help teachers to incorporate the elements of technology in their teaching, making the most of the opportunities given by the Internet and computers. As it is the intention of the editorial board to make this journal a publishing forum for teachers, so as to give them the chance to share their experiences and ideas with the professional community, teachers from all over the world are invited to help create the journal by submitting their ideas, even if this is just a single lesson plan or a classroom technique.

New advancements of technology, new ways of communicating, storing and retrieving information, the Internet, with its variety of interesting, authentic, appealing material in every sphere of life, create enormous opportunities to make teaching and learning more realistic, lively, interactive. Now it is up to teachers to use them to meet their teaching goals. Let's hope that "Teaching English with Technology" can help in this endeavour.

---