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EDITORIAL - Volume 5

Welcome to volume 5 of IJCCR. In 1996, when the original Co-Editor (Mark Jackson) and I discussed the creation of an e-journal freely available to all, I am absolutely certain that neither of us really reflected on whether it would still be around five years later. At the time, our only concern was to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas regarding the development of community currencies.

Over the past five years however, not only has the number of researchers and practitioners interested in communities currencies rapidly grown but so has the size of the policy community. As such, we are now catering for a much larger and wider readership than was originally the case.

This is reflected in both the growth of the IJCCR discussion list and the number of 'hits' on this site. Indeed, in order to enable everybody to see the growing popularity of the journal and the subject of community currencies, one of the small innovations during the past year has been the insertion of a 'hit counter' at the bottom of the home page.

A further manifestation of the growing interest in IJCCR is the number of submissions received. Indeed, it is the submission of good quality articles that is our life-blood. Without them, we cannot continue to prosper. Let me thus take this opportunity to both thank everybody who has so far submitted articles to IJCCR and to encourage other readers to become active participants in the journal by submitting articles. In particular, there is presently an under-representation of contributions from those interested in LETsystems and time currencies. We would thus like to take this opportunity to encourage articles on these forms of community currency.

Another change since the last volume is that both the composition of the Editorial Board of IJCCR has grown and the function of this board clarified. In this regard, I would like to welcome our new members of the Editorial Board, namely Theresa Aldridge, David Boyle, Roger Lee, Wonk Yoo Lee, Andrew Leyshon and Peter North, as well as to thank the longer-standing members for their contribution since the inception of the journal. Alongside this expansion of the Editorial Board, there has been a clarification of its function. The role of the Editorial Board is as follows:

- To referee material and suggest referees for articles and book reviews when requested by the Editors;
- To solicit material for the journal;
- To help with marketing and publicity; and
- To review content generally such as whether the journal is covering the necessary issues.

During the course of the year, the Editors intend to seek out further members of the Editorial Board so that it is more representative and reflective of the rapidly evolving world of community currency research. You can thus expect to see further additions to the Editorial Board as the year progresses.

One final change this year is that we have revived the Book Reviews section. As the number of books on community currencies in particular, and related money matters more generally grows, we would welcome both unsolicited book reviews and will additionally be seeking out solicited reviews of relevant books.

So far as the core articles are concerned, in the first four volumes, we have reported evidence, ideas and practice from numerous community currencies around the world. In Volume 5, the trend continues. The first paper, by J Walter Plinge, explores the extent to which community currencies equate with commodity currencies. The second paper, by the founder of time dollars in the USA, Edgar Cahn, compares time currencies and LETS. Other papers will be added during the year.

I hope that you enjoy this Volume and the resulting discussions.

Colin C Williams

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