

Editorial: A New Journal

Nelson Zagalo and Lídia Oliveira

Dept. of Communication and Art, University of Aveiro, Portugal
nzagalo@ua.pt, lidia@ua.pt

Welcome to the first issue of the Journal of Digital Media & Interaction (JDMI). While we are almost at the end of the second decade of the 21st century, with thousands of research journals being published worldwide, with hundreds in communication and human-computer interaction (HCI), why create a new journal? The answer is the subject of our first editorial.

For the past 50 years, communication science has evolved, not only through the evolution of the comprehension of human communication, but also through the evolution of the technologies created by humans for that communication. Many different branches of study have emerged, such as: media studies, multimedia, new media, digital communication, interactive media, digital media and digital humanities. At the same time, research in the broad domain of HCI has moved from being computer and technology centred towards putting the human variable at the centre of the research equation, looking to understand its implications in communication with machines. We can observe, then, that there has been a shift in communication and HCI from their disparate origins towards an approximation with each other. Today, as communication needs HCI to understand the technological dimensions of media communication, so HCI needs communication to understand the human dimension of its core research.

We cannot forget that both HCI and communication are already multidisciplinary. Communication draws on philosophy, sociology and psychology, among other fields, while HCI brings together technology, design and psychology, and more. Both disciplines depend on understanding human behaviour, which explains why psychology is present in both, but this duplication goes further, because, beyond feeding the needs of both disciplines, psychology also serves as a bridge between them, opening the way for transdisciplinarity (Turner, 2018). To understand human communication and interaction we need to understand human behaviour, but understanding it is not enough to arrive at designing new modes of communication and interaction. This is why we still need to bring together communication and HCI, because at the core are standing modes of operation of technology by human beings, which brings us to the central concern of the JDMI: communication technologies.

We cannot claim that the JDMI is the first journal in the domain of communication technologies, nor the only one now being published; however, we can say that no more than a handful exist worldwide. From another perspective, the JDMI wants to open a space for discussion that doesn't privilege any of its scientific dimensions, but rather promotes transdisciplinary research. So the JDMI is not communication-oriented, nor engineer-oriented, nor oriented towards any other discipline; the research to be published in the JDMI should follow

multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches (Gill, 2008). We believe that advantages are to be gained from confrontation and continuous dialectical effort, and the JDMI is also open to publication in four different languages — Portuguese, English, French and Spanish, although we hope to accept more languages in the future — because we believe language has a strong cultural impact on science (Curry & Lillis, 2017).

Through this transdisciplinary and multilingual approach, the JDMI hopes to support the scientific community in defining the future of communication technologies, in particular all aspects related to digital media and all its dimensions of interaction (Black, 2018).

The JDMI is an open access journal, free of charge for authors and readers. We believe open access to science is essential to promote equal opportunities for sharing and discussing knowledge (European Commission, 2016) (Santos, Almeida, & Henning, 2017) (European Commission, 2018). However, we also believe that journals should follow standards of rigour and transparency through crucial peer review processes, so the JDMI is a blind peer-reviewed journal. We have also designed the journal in line with the standards required by the various journal indexing entities, so that it can be indexed as soon as possible in scientific reference databases. In this way, all published articles will not only be the fruit of scientific peer evaluation but also of a set of internationally accepted guidelines for the promotion of science.

We consider the JDMI to be at the intersection between many and diverse scientific domains, which contribute to the understanding of the increasingly relevant niche: human-machine communication.

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