

2020 Learner Development SIG Committee Review

for

The Learner Development SIG AGM Sunday Time (TBA), Zoom

The SIG's annual general meeting is a valuable occasion for SIG members and officers to review together the SIG's activities in 2020, make plans for the coming 12 months, and raise questions for discussion that members of the Learner Development community have. Please come along and take part in planning LD grants, activities, events, and publications for 2021.

Zoom link: TBA

Click here for [the 2019 LD SIG committee review](#) and here for [the minutes from the 2019 LD SIG AGM](#). And if you would like to read reports from 2011 to 2019, you can find them [here](#).

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1. Co-coordinators - Koki Tomita & Yoshio Nakai

(Submitted by Yoshio Nakai & Koki Tomita)

What your goals were in 2020

1. Communication: Setting up a SIG calendar, online officers' meeting (per month) to check progress and development of SIG activities.
2. Find successors for the co-coordinator positions and pass down our torch.

What you / your team did in 2020

1. Checked in with different committees to run our SIG activities smoothly.
2. Attended EBMs, joined different JALT communication channels to pass down the information gained to our activities.
3. Restructured budget plans for 2021 with the Treasurer and the Grant Committee.

Something that was satisfying

1. All the above. Always good to communicate with all of the hardworking LD officers.
2. Came up with a plan for succession.
3. Joined the first-ever online-based EBM which was a big success to know we can do it without meeting face-to-face.

Something that was challenging

1. Make opportunities for collaboration among officers. A sense of community, I guess.
2. Consistent communication with officers and the committees.

What you would like to do in 2021

1. Keep communication tight among the head officers
2. Shadow our successor(s) for a smooth succession.
3. Creating an LD event calendar
4. Keeping Committee Members at large?
5. Migrating the LDJ website to the JALT website.
6. Code of Conduct Group and innovation groups in LD?

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

1. N/A

2. Treasury Team - Patrick Kiernan

(submitted by Patrick Kiernan)

What your goals were in 2020

The overall goal, as every year, was to keep on top of the accounts and allow the officers to make good use of the available funds as smoothly as possible. Until this year, we had accumulated some funds so the overall policy was to use them up. However, this policy also meant that our budget may not be sustainable long-term so reviewing it was important. This need for review was thrown into sharp focus this year due to the impact of the Corona-virus. If JALTs activities such as the national conference are curtailed and revenue cannot be collected to the extent that the SIGS grant is cut, we realised that our budget might not be feasible. Hence, resolving this also became a goal for this year.

What you / your team did in 2020

As a result of the Corona-virus, SIG events were either canceled or moved online. Although this has meant many of the day to day expenses also disappeared, it also raised the concerns about managing the budget noted above. Fortunately, this year we received our usual budget but only awarded one of the budgeted five grants, the research grant. This means that at the end of the year we should have enough money to cover next year's expenses. Through discussion with the SIG coordinators, it was decided that for future years we should scale our budget in accordance with current funds so that in the event of a budget cut we are still able to fund the activities for the current year and would cut the expenses for the following year. In practice, this will mean that grant proposals which constitute the main expense of the SIG may need to be expanded or cut based on the current year's income. For next year, we should be able to maintain five grants.

Something that was satisfying

Resolving the budget situation described above.

Something that was challenging

Resolving the budget situation described above.

What you would like to do in 2021

Continue to keep an accurate record, submit all MASes on time with no mistakes and make the handling of expenses for SIG officers as smooth and painless as possible.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

Events: CCLT7, JALT National etc.

Get togethers

Website maintenance

Grants

Late MAS Reports

In the last 10 months how many MAS reports were submitted late (after the 10th day of the following month)?

→ (1 or 2 times? but even then by the 11th, I think.)

Reminder from Treasury Liaison

How many reminder emails did you get from the Treasury Liaison officer?

→ (0 times)

Reminders from JCO

How many reminder emails did you get from JCO for late submissions or for more information?

→ (0 times)

3. Membership Team - Tetsuko Fukawa

(submitted by)

What your goals were in 2020

My main goal was to make sure the monthly SIG membership was up-to-date in a timely manner. I took over this position from Ann Flanagan in December 2019, and I've managed to meet the goal.

What you / your team did in 2020

Updating the membership list every month by adding new members and checking lapsed and renewed members. For those whose membership lapsed, encouragement emails to renew their membership were sent. In addition, when requested, I followed up on membership-related questions/emails.

Something that was satisfying

I was able to see who is on the list and see how the number of members could fluctuate over time.

Something that was challenging

I cannot think of any challenges. The tasks were well explained by the former membership chair.

What you would like to do in 2021

I'd like to keep up with the work, and if someone wishes to take over this position I'd be more than happy to liaison with the future membership chair (not that I'm suggesting I'd quit in the next few months).

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

N/A

Number of Members

How many members did your SIG have this year? This can be calculated by adding the total number of current members for each month from January to October and dividing by 10.

(members)

In 2020, we have an average of 184 members each month. In the previous year, we had 200 members in November. The numbers include lapsed members (up to three months).

4. Grants Team - Masayo Kanno, Kio Iwai, & Sami Yoshimuta

(submitted by Sami Yoshimuta)

What your goals and achievements were in 2020

A. As suggested in the previous year, we have renewed the application template by focusing on the three criteria and making clear the total number of words for one

application form.

B. The grants were advertised via the SIG homepage (<http://ld-sig.org/grants/>), mailing list, membership letters and the SIG News & Events mailout, and the results were communicated to SIG members via the mailing list.

C. We postponed the final deadline to the end of May, and the following 2020 grant were offered/awarded:

-JALT International Conference Grant - 1 x 40,000 yen to one applicant.

The recipient is Mr. Feroze, Malik Amir.

Congratulations! We look forward to reading Malik's post-conference essay/report focusing on his learner development interests in an upcoming issue of *Learning Learning*.

D. We had another applicant for a project grant; however, we concluded the application did not meet the criteria sufficiently.

E. We considered three possible budget scenarios for 2021. After all, the budget for the grant next year stays the same for now; but the grant team agreed to flexibly adjust the amount of grant and/or the number of recipients depending on the situation.

Something that was satisfying

A. We were very glad that Masayo joined us. Her presence helped the team move forward greatly.

B. It was good to try out the new template for the application form. It enables applicants and us to focus more on the content.

Something that was challenging

A. The number of applicants for grants from LD members was still limited in 2020. This year may be an exceptional case because of Covid-19; however, we need to continue to think about how we can work with the Publicity team to gain more applicants. There was an applicant for Conference Grant (International JALT Conference) and another for Project Grant. Only the former met the selection standard.

B. Since the situation was different this year, we had to ask the recipient to restructure the breakdown of the grant, which required additional confirmation between the recipient and us. Generally, the budget is mainly allocated for the travel expenses to the venue by many recipients, so we might consider how we deal with the breakdown. This process will also be necessary for 2021 if we continue online conferences.

What you would like to do in 2021

A. We may have to be ready for two conference settings: face-to-face or online. In case of an online conference, we would like to talk with the recipient and might consider modifying the amount of the grant depending on the recipient's preference.

B. We will continue to advertise the grants, not only among current members but among potential members, as the grants are definitely one way to attract new members, who would like to network or start participation in an academic community. This will require cooperation with Membership, Publicity and other teams.

C. It is also important to keep cooperating with the Editorial Team to help the recipients to contribute to Learning Learning smoothly.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

We suggest setting the grant budget the same (40,000 yen x 5 recipients) as for 2019-2020; however, we are ready to be flexible.

5. Programmes Team - Blair Barr & Robert Morel

(submitted by Blair Barr and Rob Morel)

What your goals were in 2020

Our original goal was to get more consistent feedback for producing a reflective paper for each forum. However, moving things online suddenly at the start of the year did not really result in the interactive forums we typically have. The typical back-and-forth discussions we hoped for turned into using the online format with one-way presentations and Q & A at the end. Likewise, there was little input into reflections about the events.

What you / your team did in 2020

We managed to hold all three of our originally planned face-to-face forums in an online format in the emergency situation. Although the forums were not as interactive as I personally would have liked, I am grateful to the presenters who were unafraid to adapt to this new situation. The presentations were all very interesting, and I hope that we will get to work with all of these great people again.

Something that was satisfying

I feel like we have learned the importance of hosting our own forums. We need to manage them in our unique way if we would like to mimic our usually interactive events. I feel like we are on track now to have a more interactive event for JALT2020, so I've got my fingers crossed that it will go well.

Something that was challenging

A number of presenters canceled their forum presentations when they were changed to an online format. I think a lot of this was due to the unknown. We hope that people will be more comfortable with the online format now, as it is likely that JALTCALL and PanSIG will be online again.

Someone who knew nothing about our forum was hosting the Zoom meeting. This was certainly a problem with JALTCALL being put together so quickly, and with very little communication. Even a week before the event, it was not clear how things were going to be running. Someone else hosted the room, and he basically managed us like a typical presentation, and it was difficult to duplicate the amount of communication that typically takes place in a forum. Only one attendee was actively asking questions, and the promise of receiving a recording of the forum never materialized. The lack of interaction resulted in little reflective feedback.

What you would like to do in 2021

Expand the team. We need someone to replace Rob as a team member.

We also need to remember to keep well ahead of the deadlines to ensure that people have plenty of time to get their abstracts prepared. I would like to have the themes for forums in 2021 discussed at our AGM in November.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

The only expenditure is usually poster boards for the November conference. However, this cost varies greatly depending on the location. If we can use the poster presentation room for our forum again, as we did in 2019, that would save us a lot. Otherwise, we may need a few thousand yen for printing handouts for the forums.

THE QUESTIONS BELOW APPLY TO MORE THAN JUST THE PROGRAMS TEAM

Half-day Events

NA

Full-day Events

NA

Multiple presenter Events

3 forums - Rob and I just manage only the forums.

Events calendar

The forums are a part of the bigger conferences.

Biggest Event

Our largest forum is usually at the November conference, but this is not a stand-alone event.

Attendance

How many people attended your biggest or main event? (An approximate answer is OK!)
Maybe 25

6. Publicity Team (Ellen Head) & **Illustrator** - Rob Moreau
(submitted by)

What your goals were in 2020

Survival. Communication.

What you / your team did in 2020

Survive. Communicate.

Something that was satisfying

Facebook page announcements are regularly seen by about 100 people. It is a fantastic feeling to represent and facilitate contacts for LD.

Something that was challenging

I was not able to send out a newsletter because due to the many separate sections responsible for different things, the news generally reaches the public at the same time as it reaches me.

What you would like to do in 2021

Get to the JALT events page more quickly. Maybe survey members to see if they feel connected enough.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

Nothing on publicity. Is this ok?

Please check the ways in which your group sends out publicity. Check as many boxes as are appropriate. To, mark off the checklist, please check the following link.

<https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-6-0iQUzgfgs/V2Clw5Jm3WI/AAAAAAAAVIM/PBPnNr7a13oJW>

<7lsbLogR0VnymgvS0xJgCLcB/s1600/changecheck.gif>

- flyers or handouts
- Facebook Page
- Facebook Group
- JALT events calendar
- ELT calendar <http://www.eltcalendar.com/>
- podcast
- Twitter
- blog
- Non-JALT publications, for example advertising in newspapers (give details below)

Number of Communications

How many different communications did you send to your members and followers in the last year? If you send the same message over different media, please just count that as one communication. (An approximate answer is OK.)

More than 12 separate events on Facebook, if you count announcements about LD forum, online meet-ups, publication of LD Journal and Learning Learning, calls for participation for forums and publications. About 12 of these events and about three messages per event on Facebook and one per event on Twitter. I (Ellen) was lamentably lax about not putting things in the JALT calendar mainly cos the announcements did not get to me very long in advance, so I only put things on the JALT calendar twice but it is easy to do. Rob made fliers for CCLT 5 which were distributed by email to members. I made unofficial banners for Facebook and Twitter for CCLT5 and one time for online meetup but we think it is probably better not to have two versions.

7. Publications Team

(submitted by James Underwood)

Number of Peer-reviewed Publications

The Learner Development Journal 4: Supervision Process across Diverse Contexts: Exploring Approaches.

Number of Officer-reviewed Publications

(at least two editors collaboratively respond to each piece of writing)

Learning Learning 27(1): 46 pages. Available at
<http://ld-sig.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/LL27.1.pdf>

Learning Learning 27(2): 65 pages. Available at
<http://ld-sig.org/learning-learning/fall-2020-27-2/>

Other Publications

N/A

8. Learning Learning Editorial Team - Andy Barfield, Ken Ikeda, Lorna Asami,

Yoshio Nakai, Hugh Nicoll, Koki Tomita, & James Underwood

(submitted by Ken, with additions by Andy)

What your goals were in 2020

Publish 2 issues (Volume 27, Issue 1 & 2).

What you / your team did in 2020

James and Ken have been co-editors. Lorna Asami joined the LL editorial team from late autumn 2019 and Mike Kuziw joined the team in January, with Fumiko Murase stepping back in mid-2020. A warm welcome to Lorna and Mike, and a heartfelt thank you to Fumiko for all her editorial work. Learning Learning Volume 27, Issue 1, was published in June. Issue 2 is nearing completion in early November 2020.

Something that was satisfying

Publishing, and seeing fruition in most of our editorial interactions. Particularly satisfying was seeing how different grant reports reach fruition. Two that merit mention are 1) Mike Kuziw's project that resulted in two parts, each published in these two issues. Mike developed a voice that went from being academic to a personal one. In his writing he incorporated his engagement with teachers, then learners, in a school-based reading project, which strongly reflected his development as a teacher and researcher. Another has been with Anubhuti Chauhan, who, in exploring her own linguistic repertoire and research history, took part in an engaging and revealing interview about her own home language learning evolution and about the grammatical competence of L1 Hindi and L1 Persian Japanese learners. We also saw great strides in writing by different contributors (Members' Voices, stories of learner development practices, and short reflective articles). A huge thank you to everyone who has written for Learning Learning this year.

Something that was challenging

Meeting the expectations that went along with our deadlines. Engaging with writers who did not share our vision of learner development.

What you would like to do in 2021

Continue to aim to publish two issues, maintain a healthy correspondence between editors and contributors, and keep to deadlines as humanely as possible.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

-- None (Included in the web maintenance fee)

9. Learner Development Journal Steering Group - Tim Ashwell and Alison Stewart (submitted by Tim Ashwell)

What your goals were in 2020

In 2020 our goals were i). to see Issue 4 of the LD Journal through to publication in November 2020; ii). to support the Issue 5 editorial team as they moved towards reviewing the completed contributions; iii). to solicit proposals for a theme for Issue 6, to select an editorial team, and to help that team develop and send out a Call for Proposals.

What you / your team did in 2020

Alison took the lead liaising with the LDJ Issue 4 editorial team, Sabine Little and Michelle Gollidge. We proofread the final versions of each paper and Alison wrote a final piece for the Issue. Tim took the lead liaising with the Issue 5 editorial team, but as this Issue is in mid-cycle, there was relatively little for him to do. Dominic Edsall joined the Steering Group early this year after Darren decided to step down and agreed to be the main liaison for Issue 6. He worked on helping the Issue 6 editorial team put their Call for

Papers together and sent the CfP out in September.

Something that was satisfying

We have been pleased to discuss how a new LDJ website could be set up within a new SIG website hosted on the JALT server.

Something that was challenging

We cannot move forward with setting up a new LDJ website until the SIG website has been moved over to the JALT server, so this has been a little frustrating. Darren kindly changed the permissions on the present LDJ website so that the Steering Group can edit the site. In the meantime, therefore, we can use that site and can publish Issue 4 there. Dominic has taken the lead with updating the present LDJ site.

What you would like to do in 2021

i). It would be great if we could establish a new LDJ website so that the Journal has a permanent home on the JALT server. We hope that the SIG website can be moved onto the JALT server to enable the new LDJ site to be created. ii). We need to continue to encourage new people to join the Journal production team and to renew membership of the Steering Group.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

None.

10. Learner Development Journal

Issue 4 - (Sabine Little) & (Michelle Golledge)
(submitted by Sabine)

Issue 4, on the theme of the Supervision Process across Diverse Contexts, is nearing completion. The issue features five original articles and one book review. Some of these are completely finalised, or are at the proofreading stage - one is awaiting an abstract from the authors, and one is going through final edits. Alison Stewart kindly worked with two of her students, Mao Goto and Zhou Xiaotong, on a final commentary piece.

The process of co-authorship was, as predicted, more problematic for some author pairs than for others, but we believe that the issue is stronger and more equitable for the dedication to this collaborative process, as it raised important questions about whose voices are heard when we write about supervision, and many supervisors chose to share their own process of growth, which challenges and extends the notion of the “learner” in this issue of the “Learner Development Journal”.

We are literally in the final days - when exactly the journal will be ready will depend on when the final pieces of the puzzle arrive.

Issue 5 - Andy Barfield, Oana Cusen, Yuri Imamura, Jussi Jussila, & Riitta Kelly
(submitted by Andy)

The theme of LDJ5 is Engaging with the *Multilingual Turn for Learner Development: Practices, Issues, Discourses, and Theorisations*. The issue involves 9 narrative accounts and 6 practice-related reviews, with a commentary by a practitioner-researcher in the field. While most of the contributors are based in Japan, some are working in other

countries, including Finland, Hong Kong, India, Turkey, and the UK. Since March 2020 the contributors have been interacting via Google docs, Skype and Zoom in small groups to respond to each other's proposals and first and second pieces of writing. There has been a high level of engagement within the response communities, and it has been genuinely exciting to see the research and writing developing these past several months. At the time of writing this progress report in early October, contributors have now chosen either open peer review and blind peer review for their second pieces of writing, and 15 reviewers (two per text) will each be responding to two "second pieces of writing" during October.

In our editorial roles, the four of us have had regular editor Zoom discussions every couple of months. We have also updated the Journal Steering Group regularly about the progress being made with LDJ5. We plan to have further interaction with the JSG once the writers have submitted full drafts of their writing at the end of this year/ early 2021.

If you would like to know more about LDJ5, we hope you will be able to take part in the LD SIG's Forum on *Transformative Learning Communities* at JALT2020 where the four of us will be focusing on "response communities" as ways of providing safe spaces for contributors to explore, question, interact, and write narratively about their learner development inquiries.

Issue 6 - Isra Wongsarnpigoon, Dominique Vola Ambinintsoa, Phillip A. Bennett, André A. Parsons, and Stuart D. Warrington
(submitted by Dominic)

What your goals were in 2020

Gathering a team of co-editors, deciding on a theme we were all enthusiastic about (Learner Development Beyond the Classroom), and putting out the Call for Papers.

What you / your team did in 2020

We met over the summer to discuss what we had in mind for the theme and to make sure we were all able to commit to the editorial timeline, and we have collaborated via email and Google Docs to put together the Call For Papers.

Something that was satisfying

Even though we basically already all knew each other and were aware that we had similar interests, it was nice to realize that we were thinking along the same lines for this issue. It was also reassuring to know that we'd have like-minded peers to collaborate and share the workload with for the next couple of years.

Something that was challenging

No major challenges yet—the closest thing was trying to put together a theme and Call for Papers which reflected our various interests, but that was actually pretty enjoyable. Our real challenges will be coming up this year as proposals come in and contributors start writing.

What you would like to do in 2021

Initial proposals for papers are due by mid-January. Discussions about the proposals can probably continue via email, shared Google Documents, and Zoom meetings. We will notify contributors with our decisions at the end of February, at which time they can start working on the first stage of their writing.

Writing will continue in stages during most of the year, hopefully in a collaborative

process similar to that of Issue 5.

The five co-editors will meet regularly during the year, and we will continue to work closely with the Journal Steering Group.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

11. Web Maintenance Team - Hugh Nicoll (main LD website & LD Journal website)
(submitted by Hugh)

Hugh Nicoll (LD website)

Note: Darren has re-launched an updated LDJ site and as soon as is feasible, we will be integrating the LDJ site with the main ld-sig.org site, hosted on <jalt.org>.

What your goals were in 2020

My goals in 2020 were to (1) maintain the main ld-sig website, (2) work on the migration of the site to the JALT server, (3) maintain the ld-news and ld-comm mailing lists, and (4) work with the LL editorial team in uploading and maintaining the *Learning Learning* archives.

What you / your team did in 2020

Although the LD-SIG site migration remains incomplete as of 10 November, I am in communication with Paul Collett and we will manage the transition before the end of the 2020 calendar year. The basic editing & collaboration with other LD-SIG officer teams went smoothly: the web site and mailing list administrative work is complete and up-to-date.

Something that was satisfying

Keeping things more-or-less up-to-date, and getting the Learning Learning issues uploaded were, as usual, practices leading to on-going satisfaction.

Something that was challenging

Managing the various administrative duties while suffering through the COVID switch to all online teaching as a part-time lecturer in 3, then 2 different university settings.

What you would like to do in 2021

I would like to shadow a new web and mailing administrator or team and gracefully bow out in the relatively near future.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

Will need to double-check the costs of hosting the server on the <jalt.org> site, but total costs should not exceed ¥10,000. I recently renewed our domain name registrations for the ld-sig.org domain names, so domain name registration will not need updating until October 2023.

12. Tokyo Get-Togethers - James Underwood, Ken Ikeda & Ian Hurrell
(submitted by Ken)

Tokyo get-together report

What your goals were in 2020

Originally to meet face-to-face at Otsuma Women's University 6 or 7 times, culminating with a possible CCLT6 (depending on participant interest).

What you / your team did in 2020

(Doing this from memory) After the first face-to-face meeting at Otsuma (February), we switched to meeting online via Zoom due to the lockdown impositions stemming from the covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to Ian's suggestion, we dedicated the first several meetings (April, May, July) to discuss teachers' emergency efforts to teach remotely/online. For our 4th online meeting held in September, Tim Ashwell hosted a discussion on mixed methods research that attracted 11(?) participants.

We have decided to host CCLT6 online through Eventzilla and have issued a call for proposals in late October.

Something that was satisfying

Although CCLT5 was held at Otsuma as in years past, the university's doubling of room rental fees caused the planning committee to decide on other rooms on campus. Despite the change of venue, fears of crowd congestion and noise (another conference was held simultaneously) were completely mitigated by the wonderful volunteering of Keisen students with Dexter da Silva and Lorna Asami. The conference featured large student-led presentations from Keisen, Komazawa and Meiji universities.

Something that was challenging

Participant attendance in the get-togethers, as they have been lower than in past years. But the change to online meetings has allowed our Tokyo base to be accessible nationwide. It has been nice to have participants who are not LD or JALT members to join our online get-togethers.

Immediately after CCLT5 we tackled a presenter incident that occurred which directly involved Ken and property damage to the university (thankfully temporary). Scrutiny of JALT's Code of Conduct and much deep discussion resulted in Koki as SIG Coordinator asking Ken and the presenter to produce their accounts of the incident, which ended with Koki's decision to close the matter without bringing it to JALT's EBM. Ian and James took a proactive role (it was agreed that Ken recuse himself) to resolve the matter.

What you would like to do in 2021

Continue to hold get-togethers online. It would be nice to have a face-to-face CCLT although this would mean being based in Tokyo (albeit Ken's university) again.

Envisaged expenditures for 2021

None

13. Committee Members at Large -Lee Arnold, Mathew Coomber, Dexter Da Silva, Oana Cusen, Bill Mboutsiadis, & Mike Nix

Please feel free to make any observations or comments about how the committee has been doing this last year, and/or share recommendations or questions for the coming year.

Lee -

Dexter -

Mike -

Matthew -

Oana -

Bill -