

In Memoriam of Matthew Bagshaw

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Matthew was the Technical Director of the Innovative Practice in Higher Education journal from the outset, providing 12 years of dedicated service until he sadly passed away during 2021. Right from the launch in 2009, his technical expertise and warm personality made him a perfect fit for the role.

His first task was to research existing journal platforms to find a system that met with the ambitions, expectations and vision of the first journal team. This included innovative ideas for publishing academic posters with associated voice-overs, putting out podcasts with expert views on matters aligned with the themes of the journal, and publishing long, short and reflective works from academics and students that reported innovative practice in the world of higher education. Matthew went about the task with his usual cheerful enthusiasm and soon reported back to the editorial team that he had found such a system and was already busy adapting and tailoring the programme to provide a bespoke, custom built platform for the first edition.

As the journal moved forward successfully, he maintained the site; setting up each new edition and carefully checking every detail before making it live to our global audience. He went on to monitor access to the journal, providing fascinating, and indeed encouraging statistics illustrating the numbers of readers from different parts of the world and constantly updating the site as online journals continued to evolve.

Although employed by Staffordshire University as a Platform Analyst, the majority of Matthew's work for the journal was in a purely voluntary capacity. He was prepared to go "above and beyond" and not only did he work tirelessly during the early years in order to make the journal a success, he continued to contribute even after being diagnosed with cancer. While off sick he remained in touch and continued to resolve technical problems on behalf of the journal team.

In essence, Matthew will be remembered by the journal team, not only for his dedication and will to succeed, but more so for his cheerful approach and his endearing personality. He demonstrated immeasurable patience, particularly when training members of the editorial board to use the journal platform, and he remained supportive throughout, despite our repeated mistakes. Notwithstanding his high levels of technical proficiency, Matthew was unassuming and keen to encourage others to engage with all kinds of technology. He remained positive and upbeat even in the direst of personal circumstances and left his personal stamp on both the journal and the journal team which will long be remembered.