

Foreword

Aaron Olaf Batty
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A fond farewell

As you have no doubt already noticed, this issue of *Shiken* marks some big changes to the publication. Our former General Editor and TEval Publications Chair, Tim Newfields, has passed the reigns of the publication to me and a small team of new faces after many, many years of dedicated, solitary service. For most readers, the only *Shiken* you have known has been the results of Tim's extraordinary service to the SIG, and it is with great respect and humility that we, the new editorial board, receive the duties of producing this publication. We hope to continue in Tim's tradition and ensure that this publication remains the most interesting and useful testing publication for language testers in Japan.

Introductions

The new General Editor is myself, Aaron Olaf Batty, of Keio University, Shōnan-Fujisawa Campus. I am joined by Jeffrey Stewart, of Kyūshū Sangyō University as Associate Editor, and by Aaron Gibson and Jeff Durand as Assistant Editors. The oddity of having four members with only two first names is not lost on us.

A new name

The first and most obvious change is that of the name. This publication has always striven to primarily feature research and research-oriented pieces of direct relevance and interest to the Japanese language testing community. For that reason, the editorial board, with the blessing of the SIG officers, has renamed the publication *Shiken Research Bulletin*, a name that accentuates this editorial position, and elevates the publication above a “newsletter.” With this name comes a new abbreviation (*SRB*), and a new logo.

A new look

SRB articles now follow a standardized template that seeks to enhance readability and ease production. In addition, printing of the newsletter has been outsourced to a professional printer. We hope you like it.

More to come...

We have many more changes planned and in progress, especially with regards to the web version of *SRB*, and with the SIG website. Stay tuned.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *SRB*, and from myself and the new Editorial Board:

どうぞ宜しくお願い致します。