

Foreword

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Welcome to the first issue of SALPAT, South Asia Language Pedagogy and Technology, the e-journal of the **South Asia Language Resource Center**. This journal is a direct result of the establishment of the SALRC, which came about in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001 when the U.S. Congress voted to establish a new language resource center for South Asia "...to develop the resources needed to improve foreign language teacher training for less commonly taught languages, including research, curriculum and other instructional materials, and language pedagogical strategies."

SALPAT is a natural outgrowth of the adventures of delving into the world of South Asian language teaching and research in the United States. South Asian language faculty meeting in Urbana in September 2005 and Austin in January 2006 recommended strongly to the SALRC that a journal project be undertaken as soon as possible. Faculty present at those meetings suggested that the initial issue should be on heritage language learners and teaching. Dr. Vijay Gambhir of the University of Pennsylvania offered to guest edit this first issue, and you have the result before you. Dr. Gambhir discusses the issue more specifically in her introduction.

SALPAT's mission as stated simply on this site is:

This journal will provide a space for faculty teaching the languages of South Asia to discuss and analyze the latest theories and/or practices in the field of second language acquisition studies.

Our opening goes on to say:

The SALRC has been heavily devoted to the development of digital language teaching materials for web distribution, and we spend a considerable amount of time in educating faculty in technology. This journal will regularly feature articles on uses of technology in language teaching and links relevant to the topic of the issue. Each issue will focus on a specific topic related to language pedagogy.

Thus the tone is set for this project: the first journal in North America by and for those involved in teaching South Asian languages. The key words are: theory, practice, technology. SALPAT hopes to involve faculty nationwide as readers and producers, as commentators on and as informed advocates for this growing language field.

A few notes. First, SALPAT is a freely available, refereed Open Access journal. The software that we use and that allows us to do this is **Open Journal Systems**, developed by the **Public Knowledge Project**. OJS is used worldwide by more than 1,000 scholarly journals in 10 languages and is widely considered to be the most comprehensive and easily managed open source e-journal software.

Then, SALPAT will not be published on a specific schedule. We anticipate one issue per year.

Finally, many people have participated in the launch of SALPAT. We are particularly indebted to those colleagues who submitted manuscripts for this inaugural issue, to our reviewers, to the members of our **Editorial Board**, our guest editor for the opening issue, Vijay Gambhir, and especial mention of the work of our Assistant Editor, A. Sean Pue who selected our software, set up our journal conventions, saw all contributors through the learning curve of using journal software and dealt with issues of copy editing and proofreading besides contributing two articles.

Thank you for your interest in our first issue. SALPAT is freely offered on the web. However to demonstrate to our grant sources that there is a readership and a need for this journal, I would greatly appreciate it if you would click on this [link](#) to enter your free subscription.