A time to pause

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For fifteen years now, the Journal of Community Informatics has strived to provide a solid venue for research, discussion and dissemination of all matters related to Community Informatics. Working from a fully committed dedication to open access and free publishing, only academic standards have been used to select contributions. Michael Gurstein, our founding editor, defined the ethos of collaborative endeavor with the support of a variety of people from all around the world.

However, as it happens, the realities of producing such a Journal had been always challenging. After assuming the responsibilities of running the Journal, I discovered that the interest the Journal generates faces the complex demands of making it happening, from the technical side to the editorial processes that are necessary for maintaining both the openness and the quality of the Journal.

In the past two years, the conditions have deteriorated. Academic demands on potential reviewers have combined with the limited time the editorial team has experienced, under the specific demands that we have faced. Technical support has also created a number of challenges, including a too long period during which the Journal was basically inoperative due to its server being bombarded by spammers.

On the technical side, the Journal is now on a stable position, with good hosting under the University of Kentucky's College of Communication and Information. The editorial side, however, has reached a point where the challenges have surpassed our ability to keep things going smoothly.

Too many people have been failed by us. It is unfortunate but real that we haven't been able to make the Journal work. Also, my personal target to release the editorship was 2019, and my professional demands are not allowing for a different deadline.

So, the time has come to accept the fact that the Journal does not have a support system to make it possible to continue operate in a proper fashion. We cannot guarantee a fully open but editorially rigorous Journal any longer.

This means that we have to stop accepting submissions and that we have to ask for the understanding of those already committed to the Journal, to whom I am addressing personally. The Journal will continue to be available under its domain, under the same openness that it has been its norm from the beginning.

A small number of submissions will be published under this volume, adding to those that are being released together with this editorial.

I am completely open to any ideas to return to regular publication of the Journal. However, any of these will require a new editorial team.

To all our contributors, thanks for your interest and dedication.

To all the readers, thanks for your support and interest. I wish you well.