In order to widen the scope of the JLCL, it was decided to publish a special issue of the journal with the title NLP für Perso-Arabic alphabets. After an open call for papers, we received eight contributions. After the usual reviewing process (at least two reviews per contribution) we could accept three papers for publication. As a result, this issue mostly deals with topics related to natural processing and automatic annotation (articles 1 and 2), while contribution 3 presents an empirical study on a particular type of phrase structure. The contributions focus on Arabic and its variants, a field that still provides a number of challenges for computational methods and tools.

We would like to thank the GSCL-board for their support. We also would like to thank the reviewers who took the time to help us meet the quality standards of the journal.

Last but not least, we wish our readers a pleasant and informative lecture.

The editors, Adrien Barbaresi, Lothar Lemnitzer and Kais Haddar.