

**Title of Session:** Publishing Your Work - Putting the heat back in your publishing!

**Moderator:** Debra Sprague

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

**DebraSp:** Great! Guess we ought to get started. Who would like to introduce themselves first?

**BjB:** before we start...

**DebraSp:** Yes?

**BjB:** a reminder to go to the actions menu in the top right of your chat window

**BjB:** and click on DETACH

**DebraSp:** Yes, Melissa. It makes it easier to read the screen.

**MelissaHea:** My name is Melissa Heath. I manage an information technology education department for a Health corporation.

**MandyLM:** I'll introduce myself, I'm Mandy, a senior college student at Montana state, majoring in English/secondary ed with a minor in reading (k-12). I am here for a class project for one of my methods classes. I'm student teaching in the fall in New Zealand.....

**DebraSp:** Wow! What fun, Mandy. I did my student teaching on the Navajo reservation.

**SharonWr** joined the room.

**DebraSp** waves to Sharon

**EmilyW:** I am Emily , I am a recent college graduate and web designer. I hope to use my skills in education or instructional technology.

**DebraSp:** Great, Emily.

**DebraSp:** Sharon, we are doing introductions.

**MelissaHea:** We have quite an array of people.

**SharonWr:** Hi Y'all--I'm a part-time teacher who's also a web designer. I teach technology to grades 5-8 at an Episcopal middle school.

**DebraSp:** Yes. I am a professor in Fairfax VA. I am also editor of the Journal of Technology and Teacher Education.

**DebraSp:** I like to try to address issues that are on people's mind. Are there any specific questions you all have?

**MelissaHea:** Not at the moment.

**DebraSp:** Anyone else?

**EmilyW:** can't think of anything right now

**SharonWr:** Yes. In my undergrad program, one of my profs said that he never submits anything for publication until it's harder to read than an insurance policy (according to his grammar checker). What sort of readability does your journal seek?

**MandyLM:** thinking.....(I'm always full of questions, give me a minute)

**DebraSp:** Do not be shy as I am very friendly and keep things informal.

**MelissaHea:** Well, maybe cover the positives and negatives of peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed.

**DebraSp:** Good question, Sharon. I actually take the opposite approach in my writing. I do not write any sentence that I could not walk into a bar, yell it, and have everyone understand what I said.

**MandyLM:** I know this forum is to be about publishing work, what exactly is meant by that? publishing k-12 student work, or college student work....who's work are we talking about?

**SharonWr:** Also, this is my first time here, and I'm trying to figure out how to increase the size of my chat window. Help, anyone?

**MelissaHea:** Actions... Detach

**MelissaHea:** Just learned that one

**SharonWr:** Glad to hear that obfuscation is out. And thanks, Melissa. That's much better!

**DebraSp:** This is about publishing in professional journals.

**MelissaHea:** Professional journals meaning peer reviewed?

**DebraSp:** Ok. Sounds like we need to start from the beginning and you all should feel free to chime in with questions as they occur.

**MandyLM:** ah, ok, gotcha

**DebraSp:** Yes, Melissa...and no. Not all journals are peer-reviewed.

**MelissaHea:** I am with you now.

**DebraSp:** Let me go through the process and I will address the peer-reviewed vs. non-peer-reviewed.

**MelissaHea:** check.

**SharonWr:** Ditto.

**DebraSp:** Step one is to decide which journal you want to submit to. You want to write the article to meet the interest of the readers so you want to know who reads the journal. Does the journal go to university faculty? To teachers? To specific teachers, like Art or Reading? To speech pathologists? Each of these audiences needs to have the article written in a different way.

**SharonWr:** And JTTE's audience?

**DebraSp:** JTATE's audience is mostly teacher educators although there are some K-12 teachers who receive it and some Doc students. It goes out to the SITE membership.

**DebraSp:** SITE is the Society for Information technology and teacher education.

**MelissaHea:** Thank you for the explanation of SITE

**SharonWr:** Makes sense. So JTATE is directed primarily at those who are training the teachers who will head for the field next year or two.

**DebraSp:** Stephanie, this is also how you learn the writing style of the journal. Some want articles full of jargon, others don't.

**DebraSp:** Yes, or they are working with inservice teachers already in the field.

**DebraSp:** It is an International, peer-reviewed journal.

**MelissaHea:** Where is a good place to start? In terms of publishing.

**DebraSp:** You can find out more at <http://www.ace.org/pubs/jtate/default.htm>

**DebraSp:** Start with reading the journals so you get a sense of what each publishes.

**DebraSp:** Step two, read the author's guidelines. If you do not follow the guidelines the article will be rejected, no matter how good it is. The guidelines tell you page limits, font to use, how to submit the article, how the references are to be listed, and how figures and tables are to be addressed.

**DebraSp:** Step Three, write the article. This is the hardest part of the process because you are putting your thoughts and ideas out there for other's to read and critique. That can be scary. But if you don't then you can't join the community of scholars. So jump in and write the article.

**DebraSp:** Step four, submit the article for review. Send it to the journal, guidelines will tell you how. Some want electronic submissions, some want paper versions. Some want multiple copies, some want one.

**MelissaHea:** I come from a psych background where you need statistics. Though, most of the educational articles I read are really reviews of other articles.

**MandyLM:** what kind of qualifications should one have to publish? what level of degree?

**DebraSp:** Also, watch if they ask for blind copies (JTATE does!). This means no authors' names, no affiliations, etc.

**SharonWr:** Or experience. . .

**SharonWr:** Guess JTATE wants to avoid the scandal I heard about this week with poetry contests!

**DebraSp:** Mandy, anyone can get published. A degree is not needed. All that is needed is the ability to express yourself well in writing and having something to say.

**MelissaHea:** What validity does it have? from a scholarly standpoint?

**SharonWr:** Just out of curiosity, how long does the review process generally take? How many reviewers are usually involved?

**DebraSp:** Again, knowing the journal is important. I cannot stress that enough. JTATE publishes research articles so data is required.

**DebraSp:** Sharon, that is the next step so hold off.

**SharonWr:**

**DebraSp:** Melissa, it is the quality of the work that provides the validity, not the degree one holds. We do not ask for people to verify their degree, which is why it is a blind review. We base it on quality.

**MelissaHea:** So depending on what journal you are published in really matters from the validity standpoint. Degrees do not really matter. I am just thinking I have a lot to say. Does not mean I should publish it

**SharonWr:** So you want studies that are statistically significant--not like one that I read recently in a class with like 25 respondents.

**DebraSp:** True, some of the more scholarly journals, like JTATE, are harder to get published in. But others are easier, have a lower rejection rate.

**DebraSp:** It depends on what you have to say, who the audience is you are trying to reach, and whether or not the journal wants to publish it.

**MandyLM:** so what was the next step? I got lost.....

**DebraSp:** I wrote an article that took the No Child Left Behind law to task and submitted it to a journal who shall remain nameless. They turned it down...too controversial.

**DebraSp** smiles

**DebraSp:** Next step!

**DebraSp:** The next steps are out of your control, but here is what happens once the article reaches the hands of the editor. This will answer Sharon's question.

**DebraSp:** Step five depends on rather or not the journal is peer-reviewed. If it is not, the editor will read the article and make a decision as to rather or not he or she wants to publish it. If the journal is peer-reviewed, as mine is, the editor sends the article out to two or three reviewers. The editor then gets the reviews back from the reviewers and makes a decision as to rather or not to publish it.

**MandyLM:** do the reviewers then do fact checks, etc, on the author's sources?

**DebraSp:** Journals that are peer-reviewed are often seen as more prestigious (but not always).

**SharonWr:** You must not have the problem experienced by some of the smaller journals I've associated with--insufficient material to choose from.

**DebraSp:** No, they are reading for content. Once the article is accepted I have a team that checks facts.

**DebraSp:** No, I have too many articles. We only accept about 15-20% of the articles submitted to us.

**DebraSp:** Some of my reviewers do check for plagiarism.

**SharonWr:** How long did it take to build up to that level of submissions?

**DebraSp:** JTATE is 15 years old. Again, it has to do with the perception of the field. The more prestigious it is seen as, the more submissions you receive.

**DianeHan:** Do you use a plagiarism software program to check submissions?

**DebraSp:** I don't, but my reviewers are well known in the field. They are familiar with several journals and will often catch problems that occur. This does not happen very often.

**DebraSp:** Step six is notification to the author. You will get a letter saying one of three things. First, the dreaded rejection letter. This one is what everyone fears, but we have all gotten them at one time or another. Sometimes the article needs too much work to be published. Other times it is not a good match for the journal you submitted it to.

**DebraSp:** If you get the rejection letter read the comments from the editor and reviewer. If it is a case that it is not a good fit, find another journal to submit it to. Some other journal make like it. If it is a case it needs to be rewritten, then rewrite it. Don't give up.

**DebraSp:** The second response you could get is Accept with Revisions. This means the journal is interested in the article, but they would like you to revise it somewhat. Again read what they are saying and do what they say. Follow the time line. If they want it back in two weeks make sure it is back in two weeks. If not, it will be rejected because journals have timelines as well.

**DebraSp:** The third option is the one we all want to receive...the acceptance letter. This means the article is great and they will publish it. Rarely do you receive this letter when you submit the article. Most always there are revisions required.

**MandyLM:** how long after your article is accepted is it actually published?

**DebraSp:** Depends on the journal and the backlog they have of accepted articles. JTATE is currently taking a year and a half.

**SharonWr:** I suppose that could change if you received something excellent and timely.

**DebraSp:** Other journals can publish within a couple of months.

**DebraSp:** Yes, if there is something that is timely then we will bump an older article and put the timely article in its place. I am facing that right now.

**DebraSp:** Of course, that gets other authors upset because they have been waiting awhile to publish their work.

**DebraSp:** Step seven. The article has been accepted and proofread by the copy editor. You will see the copy proofs. These are the pages that show you exactly what the article would look like when it goes to press. You will have the opportunity to check these over and correct any typos and errors in the article. Once you approve the page proofs (again pay attention to the due date) the journal is sent to the printer and you will see your article published!

**SharonWr:** That's nice--a lot of places don't provide the authors with page proofs and the opportunity to make corrections.

**MandyLM:** is it possible to submit the same article to be published in multiple journals?

**DebraSp:** Great question, Mandy. Answer...ABSOLUTELY NOT!

**DebraSp:** You are not supposed to submit an article to more than one journal at the same time. You submit to one journal and then wait to hear from them before submitting to another journal.

**DebraSp:** The journal holds the copyright on the article. Submit to more than one journal and they both decide to publish it then the copyright becomes an issue.

**MandyLM:** maybe I missed it, but how long does it take to get back to a person?

**DebraSp:** Sharon, every journal I have ever published in has provided page proofs. Oh, wait one online journal did not and I was upset because they made a major error.

**EmilyW:** Once an article is published in a journal. the journal holds copyright, not the writer?

**DebraSp:** To get what back to a person, Mandy?

**SharonWr:** Initial response--reject, accept, revise

**MandyLM:** after they submit their article, which of the 3 letters they receive

**DebraSp:** Yes, Emily. Many journals ask you to sign over the copyright. This means the journal can approve having the article reprinted without you as the author knowing about it.

**SharonWr:** Writing for prof journals is for prestige and edification, not for profit!

**DebraSp:** Mandy, it varies. Again, based on the journal and the number of submissions received. On average 4-12 weeks.

**SharonWr:** Shucks, I'm waiting for a rebate that's taken nearly that long!

**DebraSp:** True, you do not get paid for what you write...unless you count the raise you receive when you get tenured or promoted, both based on your publication record.

**DebraSp:** JTATE use to be a year! I am pleased we got it down to 4-12 weeks.

**SharonWr:** My career has been largely in private institutions without tenure systems. And promotion generally depends more on time served. . .

**EmilyW:** For example, if I wrote an article and it was published on my website. Then I submitted it to a journal, and it got published, I would have to remove it from my website?

**DebraSp:** Not necessarily, Emily. You would need to indicate that the article was published in a specific journal. However, once published in a journal you cannot send it to another journal for publication again.

**DebraSp:** Your own website for you own use is usually acceptable, as long as you provide credit. However, you should check with the journal to be sure they are alright with it as I am not a lawyer.

**EmilyW:** ok, I was just wondering

**SharonWr:** If the journal was available online, I'd be inclined to provide a link from my own site, so that people could see it in the journal, rather than a separate, free-standing version of the article.

**DebraSp:** I have an article published in Learning and Leading with Technology that is very popular with teachers. I recently did a search on my name and it showed up on 5 websites, the entire article.

**DebraSp:** That is usually the most acceptable way to do it Sharon. Unless the journal has a subscription fee as some do.

**DebraSp:** Here is a great article on getting published that gives great advice for someone getting started. <http://www.citejournal.org/vol4/iss2/editorial/article1.cfm>

**SharonWr:** So aside from No Child Left Behind, what sorts of research topics would you look forward to seeing for JTATE?

**SharonWr:** (tongue in cheek)



**DebraSp:** Any research related to technology use in teacher education.

**DebraSp:** We publish both qualitative and quantitative research, plus mixed methods.

**SharonWr:** For instance. . . I recently read a study that had as a corollary to its hypothesis that students experience more of a measurable benefit from electronic field trips when their teachers are experienced in using EFFs.

**DebraSp:** We get a lot of articles about online professional development.

**EmilyW:** how teachers use technology or how they are learning technology?

**DebraSp:** More how they are learning technology. We do not publish research on use of technology with K-12 students, only the teachers.

**DebraSp:** There are other journals that publish K-12 research.

**SharonWr:** I understand.

**DebraSp:** The article you mentioned would be of interest if it had data and if it had recommendations of how to help teachers gain that experience with EFFs.

**DebraSp:** If it focused on the students and did not tie back to the teachers then JTATE would not be the right journal for it.

**SharonWr:** How in-depth of a statistical analysis does JTATE like to see?

**DebraSp:** Depends. We publish some with just means and standard deviations and we also publish some with more in-depth analysis.

**BjB** looks at the clock and reminds Debbie that time is almost up

**DebraSp:** We even publish some that go over my head.

**DebraSp** laughs.

**DebraSp:** I guess we need to stop here. Thank you for joining me. I am taking a break over the summer but will be back in August or September.

**EmilyW:** Where can I find information about education journals?

**SharonWr:** Thanks for hosting--this has been an interesting discussion.

**MandyLM:** yes, thanks!

**BjB:** We'll look forward to your return, Debra! Have a good summer.

**DebraSp:** Emily, two main places. ISTE and AACE. <http://www.iste.org> and <http://www.aace.org>