

Title of Session: Publishing Your Work
Moderator: Debra Sprague
Title of File: 20060926publishing
Date: September 26, 2006

Room: Hot Tub Conference

BJ: Welcome to tonight's Publishing Your Work. Please let Debbie know where you are located and what brings you to the discussion.

DebraSp: I have only been a parent for 12 days so his is all new to me.

DavidWe: Wow!

DavidWe: Congratulations, Debra

DebraSp: The child is 17 months old. His name is David.

SusanR: Congratulations

MarkLe: Wow, congrats

DebraSp: Thank you.

DavidWe calculates 12 days from 17 months

AndreaDe: Oh - just a little one!

DebraSp: Obviously, he is adopted if you are doing the math. He is from Guatemala. That is how i spent my summer!

MarkLe: awesome

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: How is your Spanish, Debra?

SusanR . o O (wonderful)

DebraSp: Very few words, but learning more each day.

SusanR: how is the adjustment for both of you

DavidWe smiles

DebraSp: We are doing well for the most part. I have to adjust when I do my work (around his schedule) and he is learning to trust me to take care of him...like today.

DebraSp: So now you know something about me. Tell me about yourselves.

DavidWe is a bit older than 17 months and NOT from Guatemala but rather from New Jersey where he helps teachers learn more about educational technology

DebraSp: Thanks, David.

AndreaDe: I am a science teacher in San Diego. I am currently working on my masters. I teach a public school that focuses in technology.

DebraSp: Great, Andrea.

SusanR: I am much older than 17 months. I have been a classroom teacher in the primary grades, a Tech Coach and a Guest Teacher. I live in Ottawa, Ontario

DebraSp: Thanks for the info, Sue.

MarkLe: Mark Lee is my name, I am from Sydney, Australia where I am Adjunct Faculty with Charles Stuart University and an Honorary Research Fellow with the University of Ballarat. My research is in educational technology in general but I am trying to get published in the teacher education arena

DebraSp smiles

DebraSp: Mark, welcome. This will be a good discussion for you.

MarkLe: Thanks Debra

MichelleLM: I teach 7/8th math in Southern California

DebraSp: I usually lead an informal discussion and go with what the audience wants to know. Are there specific questions you have that you would like me to address?

AndreaDe: Debra - I am curious about "hot topics" in technology education

DebraSp: I guess we should get started. Roger, do you want to do an introduction?

DebraSp: Good question, Andrea. There have been several editorials written in the past year about this very issue.

AndreaDe: At our school site it is about getting our students to use the technology as tools in content classes, this is focus for our whole district.

DebraSp: The biggest question facing the field is how to do good quality research studies when it is very difficult to show technology makes a difference in learning as measured by test scores.

RogerMG: Sure. Roger Goodson, Professor at Notre Dame de Namur U. in Bay Area, CA.

AndreaDe: My masters is looking at that topic...looking at attitude and achievement when technology is used in labs

DebraSp: That is also the focus of many university programs as well.

DebraSp: Other hot topic is how do we get teachers to use technology when they are under a lot of pressure from NCLB.

MarkLe: Debra, I am keen to find out more about the respected journals in technology in teacher ed, what they look for as opposed to other ed tech journals, acceptance rates etc. I know of JTATE, Computers in the Schools and JCTE. I also read your Editorial in the CITE journal, which I found interesting and useful

DebraSp: NCLB - No Child Left Behind

DebraSp: Thank you, Mark. You have named the top journals in technology and teacher education. There are other well respected educational technology journals, but they do not focus on teacher education.

RogerMG: One interesting thing I read on doing comparison studies between online and f2f classrooms, is that we are comparing elearning to f2f activities that in many cases appear not to have been well tested themselves . . .that is, the f2f classroom has not necessarily 'proved' itself as a highly effective learning environment.

MarkLe: That's an interesting one - there has been an emphasis on infusing/integrating technology into teacher ed programs but many smaller institutions are still forced to teach ICT skills separately so they can combine cohorts of students

MarkLe: Thanks Debra

DebraSp: The one journal you have missed is Technology, Pedagogy, and Education (I think that is the title). It is an international journal published in the UK.

MarkLe: Great thanks, I missed that one

DavidWe: Any one mention "Edutopia" - the publication of the George Lucas Educational Foundation?

DebraSp: Would you like me to go through the steps for publishing or do you want to continue asking individual questions?

DavidWe . o O (www.edutopia.org)

AndreaDe: I'd like the steps please

MichelleLM: Go through steps please

MarkLe: I don't think Edutopia is a research journal...unless I am mistaken?

DebraSp: Edutopia is a good journal, but I am not sure if it is refereed. No, it is not a research journal.

DavidWe thinks Edutopia is a valuable journal, nonetheless

DebraSp: Yes, valuable and has useful information, but academics need refereed journals for tenure and promotion considerations.

MarkLe: Sure - I agree...I found some good stuff on Project Based Learning there the other day

DavidWe . o O (ah...tenure)

MarkLe: uh huh

DebraSp: Here are the steps: 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.

DebraSp: Knowing who the audience is helps you in constructing the article.

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: Every journal has guidelines. Some are posted online and others appear in the back of the journal cover.

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.

DebraSp: The next steps are out of your control, but here is what happens once the article reaches the hands of the editor.

DebraSp: Step five depends on rather or not the journal is peer-reviewed or refereed. 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.

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.

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!

DebraSp: Questions?

RogerMG: Good outline of the process.

MichelleLM: How/What is peer reviewed?

DebraSp: Good question, Michelle. Peer-reviewed means that your peers (other professors from your field, other teachers, etc.) have read the article and determined that it is worth publishing.

MichelleLM: How does the publisher know that this has been done?

AndreaDe: Are the revision requests a combination of feedback from the reviewers?

DebraSp: For those at universities, this is an essential component of getting published. Although we will publish in journals that are not peer-reviewed, those articles do not carry the same amount of weight.

DebraSp: The author should check on this. If the journal has a list of reviewers in the front of the journal, then you know it is peer-reviewed. If there is no list of reviewers, then it is probably only being reviewed by the editor.

DebraSp: Yes, Andrea. The editor will combine the comments from the various reviewers. These will be the requested revisions.

MarkLe: Here in Australia universities do not give any credit whatsoever to staff for publishing in non peer-reviewed journals. We are expected to publish in journals that are double-blind peer reviewed as part of the tenure process and ongoing performance management. Is the situation much the same in the US?

DebraSp: Yes, Mark. Although some universities are not as strict, especially when it comes to schools of education. They want to see some peer-reviewed articles, but will accept non-peer-reviewed if they are published in practitioner (a.k.a. teacher) journals, the type of journals teachers read such as Edutopia or Learning and Leading with Technology.

DebraSp: If you go to this website, you will see a list of reviewers for the journal I edit.

DebraSp: <http://www.aace.org/pubs/jtate/board.cfm>

SusanR: on the basis of the criteria mentioned would you consider publishing to Merlot <http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

MarkLe: Great, I think that's how it should be. The demands are getting increasingly high here, with talk about things like journal impact factors and citation rates coming into play

MarkLe: Susan, do you mean the MERLOT journal JOLT?

DebraSp: Sue, probably since it is peer-reviewed. However, the other factor academics have to consider is impact. This is measured by the number of subscribers, the

acceptance rate, and the number of times the article is cited. If the publication is in an obscure journal then the impact is lower than in a more prestigious journal.

JeffC: The chilling effect of peer reviewed journals is powerful though. I edited one for a professor and the hoops they have to jump through are incredible. Why not encourage educators (especially practicing teachers and not academics) to publish online?

MarkLe: I guess if you were publishing an article to do with learning objects...JOLT might be a reasonable place to do it because of its association with MERLOT. What area are you planning to publish in?

SusanR is checking out the guidelines for publishing at JOLT

DebraSp: By all means, they should publish online and there are many fine online journals to choose from. I have several online articles published. However, the process is the same if it is peer-reviewed.

DebraSp: If you are talking about publishing your own work and not in a journal, then that is another issue.

JeffC: No... just talking about publishing in online journals... I've published about four... and although I've had a little back and forth with editors... I was able to write the way I wanted and not worry about citation styles, etc. let alone arguments from others demanding I revise my position.

DebraSp: It sounds like you published in non-peer reviewed journals. In that case, you only have to please the editor, not the reviewers. Citation format is important as there has to be consistencies across articles in an issue. Forcing you to change your position because someone does not agree with it should not be allowed. The editor should have prevented that.

DebraSp: Again, the issue goes back to step one and who you are writing for, who the audience is. Academics writing for each other have a different focus than writing for teachers.

JeffC: Well... my citations were all hyperlinks... and when I edited for the professor, he was constantly challenged on his position and forced to make rewrites... all to end up in a professional journal which I guess looks great on his vitae, but at \$400 a pop isn't going to be read by many. Online journals might not have the prestige as high priced peer reviewed academic journals, but I'll take them any day.

SusanR . o O (wonders if blogging has had an effect on publishing in peer reviewed journals)

MarkLe: Funny you mention that, because one of my most cited articles and the one I get most correspondence about is one that is online and open-access, but not in a prestigious journal!

DebraSp: That is fine, Jeff. I understand your position and if I were a teacher I would agree with you. It is one of the reasons schools of education publish in teacher journals, more of an impact on the field. However, those of us in academia have to play the game. That game says you publish in peer-reviewed journals. And to add insult to injury, there are some universities that will not count online articles as acceptable even if they are peer-reviewed.

DebraSp: My most cited article is in Learning and Leading with Technology which is not peer-reviewed and read more by teachers than by academics.

JeffC: I hear you Debra... that's why I don't envy professors!

BJ: we only have five more minutes left, Debbie.

BJ . o O (which means little David is resting well)

DebraSp: Yes, I am keeping an eye. Luckily, my son slept through the entire hour.

MarkLe: Susan, would you like to elaborate on your comment about blogging? I'd be interested in hearing what you mean

DebraSp sighs with relief.

MarkLe: Debra, would you be able to tell us what the acceptance rate is like for a journal like JTATE?

DebraSp: Blogging has not had much of an impact on journals as the culture of academics has not changed any.

SusanR: Blogging consumes us. My hubby reads a number of journals but spends most of his days pouring thro' blogs

DebraSp: Currently, the acceptance rate for JTATE is 6%. Most run between 5-20%

MarkLe: So you think it has adversely affected publications in journals?

SusanR: blogs..thus would we be reading fewer journals with all those time constraints

MarkLe: Does the 6% include the "with revisions" category?

DebraSp: Probably, Susan. The question then becomes...who are we publishing for?

DebraSp: Yes, Mark. 6% (last time I calculated) are those that were published compared to those that were submitted.

SusanR nods

DebraSp: That is all the time we have for now. I will be back next month (if little David allows).

MichelleLM: Thank you

MarkLe: Thanks Debra

DebraSp: Mark, what time is it in Australia?

BJ: October 24

MarkLe: 12 noon

SusanR: Thanks all! An intriguing discussion

MarkLe: on Wed 27 September

DebraSp: 10:00 PM here in Virginia.

DebraSp: Enjoy the rest of your day.

BJ . o O (still Tuesday, 26 Sept)

MarkLe: Thanks!

BJ waves goodnight. Give little David a hug for me!

DebraSp waves to BJ