

Title of Session: Publishing Your Work

Moderator: Debra Sprague

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DebraSp joined the room.

JeanneSc: I am taking a course for my Masters and I have to actually write an article and go through the process of trying to submit it this week...So this will be a great help.

DebraSp: Hello

JeanneSc: Hello Debra

ChristyK: Hi, Debra!

BJ: we'll start in another couple minutes in case there are any last minute logins

DebraSp: You have to publish an article, Jeanne?

SybilB joined the room.

JeanneSc: I have to go through the whole process

DebraSp: Hello, Sybil.

SybilB: Sorry, my puppy disconnected the cable.

JeanneSc: Hi, Sybil

SybilB: Hello Debra

DebraSp: Not a problem. I have a dog also.

DebraSp smiles

SybilB: I found this one a week ago, someone had thrown him out and since I brought him home he will not let me out of his sight when I am here.

JeanneSc: I have two and a bunny, a bird and lots of fish

ChristyK: Two schnauzers.

DebraSp: I got mine at the animal shelter, seven or eight years ago.

SybilB: I am glad that I am in the company of fellow animal friends.

SybilB: This is the first time that I have been in a conference like this, so I am depending on you to help me get through this.

DebraSp: No problem. I tend to run an informal discussion, letting the participants determine the direction.

BJ: Debbie, how about if we start with introductions?

DebraSp: I always forget to do that, BJ.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

BJ: Hi, Julie. Welcome. We're just starting introductions

DebraSp: I am a professor at George Mason University in Virginia.

SybilB: My name is Sybil Beasley and I am a computer Science Teacher in Minden, Louisiana.

ChristyK: I'm a researcher in Las Vegas. Yes, Debbie, you were the discussant at my AERA session.

DebraSp: Well, small world, Christy!

JeanneSc: I am currently going to school for my Masters in Technology in Education

ChristyK: Where?

JeanneSc: Lesley University, Massachusetts...but I live in NH

SybilB: Hey Jeanne, I am also 4 classes away from my Masters in Educational Technology from Northwestern state University in Natchitoches, LA.

SybilB: Forgive my typing, I have new nails for the prom and cannot seem to type with them.

DebraSp: Jeanne says she needs to go through the process of publishing an article. I can go through that process if you all want. Are there specific questions you would like me to address?

JeanneSc: 4 for me too. 2 this summer and 2 this fall

DebraSp waves to Jason.

DebraSp: We forgive typos.

DebraSp winks

SybilB: I think that publishing an article is an excellent topic. I hope to eventually teach at the college level and I know publishing and research are vital to obtaining these positions.

JasonS waves back

DebraSp: Jason, would you like to post an introduction?

JasonS: sorry I'm doing a few things at once

JasonS: I'm a tech coordinator for MPS

JasonS: Milwaukee Public Schools

DebraSp: Thank you, Jason.

JasonS: np

DebraSp: Publishing process. Many people think writing the article comes first and then deciding where to send it.

JeanneSc: I have to write it on Technology in Special Education and I am not sure how to focus the article for publication

DebraSp: This is backwards. Figure out where you want to send the article then write it.

DebraSp: Deciding where to send it will help you know how to focus it.

SybilB: I am guessing that you must first determine the audience you are addressing and then find a publication that meets that media criteria and then write the article.

DebraSp: Each journal has its own style and its own audience.

DebraSp: That is correct, Sybil.

DebraSp: You want to check the journal's guidelines.

JeanneSc: Pick the journal first...then write the article

DebraSp: Correct.

DebraSp: To choose the journal, look at the author guidelines.

DebraSp: Also take the time to read the back issues to get an idea of the writing style and the type of articles they publish.

SybilB: So I guess then you are directed by what the publication is accepting and then compile an article from your research to meet guidelines for the publication.

SybilB: I agree that looking at previous issues can be a great time saver and resource for your writing.

DebraSp: Absolutely! If you write an article that does not meet their guidelines it won't be published there no matter how good it is.

DebraSp: I reject articles because they do not meet the purpose of my journal.

DebraSp: People would know this if they read the journal.

DebraSp smiles

DebraSp: Jeanne, there are several journals that publish technology and special ed articles.

DebraSp: Do you have a general topic for your article?

SybilB: I would even guess that if I had an ideal for research, I should first see if there is a publication that is a reliable source who publishes the material my research is on and then develop the research so that the guidelines are met.

SybilB: I have spent much time looking for reliable technology articles. Do you have some journals you recommend over others?

DebraSp: I do not think I would go that far, Sybil. Many journals look at the quality of the research study. They are flexible about the study itself.

ChristyK: Is there some list of ed tech journals somewhere? One that lists which are peer reviewed?

SybilB: OK, thanks for the clarification.

JeanneSc: Not yet, as long as it has to do with the use of technology with special needs

DebraSp: There are several good journals that publish technology articles.

DebraSp: Not all of them are peer-reviewed.

DebraSp: The journal that has the highest reputation in the Ed Tech community is not peer-reviewed. Go figure!

ChristyK: Is the acceptance rate equivalent to the respect an article is given in regard to tenure and promotion?

ChristyK: And, yet, Ed Tech articles are so short!

ChristyK: And often not research at all.

DebraSp: The acceptance rate is figured into the process. The reputation of the journal is also figured in.

DebraSp: It depends on where you publish regarding length and whether or not it is a research article.

DebraSp: All I publish is research articles.

ChristyK: How can they figure that in if there's no list of the journals? Is it just based on what tenured profs think is true?

DebraSp: What journals are you all reading?

SybilB: I often think that the articles in Ed Tech need more information with examples of student responses and long term outcomes. I find that the background information I can agree with, but there is insufficient details for me to use as markers when I am evaluating my own classes.

DebraSp: Christy, you ask the editor the acceptance rate.

SybilB: Forgive me for being outspoken, but I would like to read one of your articles. Can you recommend one of your favorites and where I can find it at?

ChristyK: Do people publish long articles in one journal and then shorten them and publish the same research in Ed Tech?

DebraSp: No, Christy. It is frowned upon to publish the same article in more than one journal.

DebraSp: Sybil,

DebraSp: are you asking for an article I wrote?

SybilB: Yes, please.

ChristyK: I'm presently working on articles I'm targeting at JRTE, AJDE, and either AJR&D or Ed Tech.

DebraSp: I have two articles in this month's CITE Journal available at <http://www.citejournal.org>

DebraSp: Neither of these are research-based, but it will give you an idea of my writing style.

SybilB: Thank you, I will visit there and read them later tonight.

ChristyK: I'm a newbie and figured if I start high, I can always try for a lesser known journal when I'm rejected and have good feedback from the reviewers. Is this a bad thing?

SybilB: I went to the site and I thank you for the link. I will mark it in backflip and check it on a regular basis. Big Smile.

DebraSp: Not really, but you do not want to waste an editor's or reviewer's time. JTATE receives a large number of submissions. I get upset when an article is so bad it is obvious the author did not take the time to do a good job.

ChristyK: Being new to the field, I think everything I do is substandard. When you get articles by junior faculty and you think the research is good but the article needs a lot of work, are you willing to work with them to get the article into an acceptable format?

DebraSp: The other way to check on a journal's reputation is to see if it is listed in the citation index

DebraSp: That depends on how much work is needed. If it is a lot I will reject it but invite the author to resubmit at a later time once they have time to revise the article.

DebraSp: I try to help junior faculty and do what I can, but I do not always know who is junior and who isn't.

DebraSp: However, most editors will respond if you contact them for advice once they review your article.

DebraSp: I have always responded when someone has contacted me.

DebraSp: Also, a rejection from one journal does not mean you should give up.

DebraSp: It might be accepted by another journal once you address the reviewers' concerns.

DebraSp: You need to develop a thick skin when trying to get published.

ChristyK: I'm thinking it would help me a lot to be a reviewer for articles. Then I could see what constitutes quality. But, I don't have any experience reviewing (except AERA proposals). Do editors take on new reviewers and work with them as they learn the skill?

SybilB: It appears the rules for good writing are to put in place when writing any article. Rejection does not mean that your information was not valid or important, the format in which you chose to present it could need some cleaning up. I feel it is like grant writing. If you believe in your purpose enough, you will continue to work to improve it and it will be successfully received.

DebraSp: Most journals want you to have a publication record yourself before they accept you as a reviewer. It is difficult to rate someone else's work if you do not have anything published yourself.

ChristyK: Makes a lot of sense.

DebraSp: However, becoming a reviewer is a great way to learn the research and to get to know the journal.

DebraSp: It also helps you to improve your own writing.

DebraSp: Other questions?

SybilB: I agree. When you are reading and understanding technical jargon, you do improve your comprehension of the subject and expand your own writing skills to accommodate the subject you are writing on.

DebraSp: it also gives you ideas for your own research agenda.

DebraSp: I have developed several ideas from reading what others are doing.

SybilB: Well, I have learned some new information and I have learned where to find some more Tech articles from the discussion. Thanks for the insight and for the tips for publication.

ChristyK: Back to the citation index. Is it enough that the journal appears in the index, or is there some other criteria that must be met?

DebraSp: Check out Educational technology Review at

<http://www.aace.org/pubs/etr/issue4/index.cfm>

DebraSp: It is enough that it appears in the index. The index rates the journal.

DebraSp: If it is there it is accepted as a viable journal with a good reputation.

ChristyK: How does it rate it? Compared to other journals or just by being there?

DebraSp: Obviously, some journals have better reputations than others, but only the people within your own field know which is which.

DebraSp: It looks at acceptance rate, impact on the field, number of subscribers, number of articles that are cited in other journals. The standard criteria.

DebraSp: Oops, field

ChristyK: What about the differences between print and online journals?

CraigH joined the room.

CraigH: Hello

DebraSp: That is a good question. It depends on the field and whether or not the online journal is peer-reviewed.

DebraSp: Hello Craig. Welcome. We are discussing publishing in the ed tech field. Do you have any questions?

ChristyK: For tenure, does it make a difference if it's a peer-reviewed online or print journal?

DebraSp: In the IT field online journals are considered acceptable. That is not true for all fields.

DebraSp: You have to check with you institution to answer that questions. At GMU, it makes no difference.

CraigH: I recently received a environmental ed grant and purchased a scope on a rope and the Jason Project curriculum for use next year.

DebraSp: Congratulations, Craig on receiving the grant.

CraigH: Since I teach in Louisiana - big problems with coastal erosion - I am interested in having some of the projects that my students are doing published. I am also aiming for National Boards next year.

DebraSp: Are you teaching K-12 students or teacher education students?

DebraSp: Who is doing the publishing?

CraigH: k -12

CraigH: I also do teacher training - I guess I can go either way!

DebraSp: Jeanne, have we helped you get started? Do you have other questions that we have not yet addressed?

SybilB: Hey Craig, I am from Louisiana also. I hope that you can discover some research that will help prevent the massive amount of costal erosion our state is witnessing. I live in North Louisiana and was shocked last year to see how many acres we are losing each year.

DebraSp: There are not many that publish K-12 students' work in the journals I interact with. _Learning and Leading with Technology does so occasionally.

CraigH: one football field every half an hour!

CraigH: Debra - what about science journals?

JeanneSc: I am not sure, really just observing and thinking about everything being discussed

SybilB: If you find something in your research that will help, then publish it as a teacher trainer for we need to get the research available for assistance.

DebraSp: You could write an article and use the students' work as samples.

DebraSp: If you want to publish the students' work directly I would need to do a little research to recommend some options.

ChristyK: Thank you for your time, Debra. I'm signing off - time for Bible study! c:)

DebraSp: One possibility is to use Blogging on the Internet to publish their work and make it accessible to others.

CraigH: I have read learning and leading with technology - would it be better to incorporate teacher professional development?

DebraSp: Bye, Christy.

ChristyK left the room (signed off).

DebraSp: Teacher professional development is one option, but they occasionally publish articles written by a k-12 student.

JeffC joined the room.

DebraSp: You might write an article that describes the project and then send them to a website to see the students' work.

CraigH: I have checked into blogging and the students will need their own email addresses - our parish frowns on that!

DebraSp waves to Jeff

CraigH: Do you know how I could get around this policy?

BJ wonders if Craig would be interested in setting up a K-12 student group in Tapped In

DebraSp: That is a problem. I had a student that just published her students' work on the school server, using blogging. Does your school have a server?

BJ: your students could post to the discussion board in the group room..and you would get all the emails

CraigH: We are also a school that has a high population of free and reduced lunch - My last tech survey (37 % of our students have a computer at home - even less on the internet)

DebraSp: I can check to see how she got around the e-mail issue

CraigH: This may be an idea!

SybilB: I am going to leave the discussion also. I have learned a lot and I can see publishing in my future. I will heed the advice given and I will read the articles recommended. Thanks for the insight and everyone have a great evening. Thanks Craig in advance for the work that you are conducting. Good luck!

DebraSp: You will need to do it at school from the sound of things.

CraigH: We are talking about 4th and 5th grade!

DebraSp: Bye, Sybil. Thank you for your insightful questions.

JeffC: Craig... you also might want to check out <http://www.epals.com> and/or <http://www.gaggle.net>

DebraSp: That is the level my student worked with.

CraigH: Bye Sybil - do a search in google for Louisiana wetlands and sign up for a few of the listserves to stay posted!

JeffC: safe... filterable... teacher created email for students at both sites.

JulieDa: Thanks so much. I have learned a lot today.!

CraigH: I am not familiar with gaggle but I will check it out!

DebraSp: I am afraid it is about time to end. Craig, if you want to follow-up with me you can send me an e-mail at dspragul@gmu.edu

DebraSp: Jeff, thank you for these websites!

CraigH: What articles did you recommend for her to read so that I could check them out?

JeffC: no problem.. .would've been here sooner but... had to pick up the kids... anything else you'd like a link for btw?

DebraSp: She did this on her own and worked with the tech coordinator at her school. It was not a course assignment.

SybilB left the room.

DebraSp: You might want to check out the WWWEDU listserv. They have been discussing blogging a lot lately.

DebraSp: If you do a search you should come across their archives.

CraigH: Thanks for the encouragement - I look forward to the challenge!

DebraSp: Thank you all for coming. I hope you will visit again. Good luck with the article, Jeanne.

JeanneSc: Thank you

BJ: Thanks, Debbie. See you on May 24

DebraSp: bye, everyone!