

Title of Session: Publishing Your Work

Moderator: Debra Sprague

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

DebraSp: I guess we should get started.

SoniaW: Hi there

DebraSp: We like to start with introductions.

SoniaW: I'm sort of in here by default .. new member to TI .. please don't be offended if I drift off

DebraSp: I am a professor at George Mason University in Virginia and editor of the Journal of Technology and Teacher Education.

DebraSp: Sonia, feel free to stay as long as you like. New members are always welcome.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In. I'm here to use the hot tub and listen to Debbie.

JeffC: : I'm on Helpdesk here... and an Education Technology Support Consultant... I'm published online but not on paper.

JeffC: forgot to bring his virtual towel.

DebraSp: I like meeting here because I get to use the hot tub also.

LindseyLW: I am a graduate student at the University of Houston in Texas, working on my English certification and my Masters in GT education

DebraSp climbs into the hot tub.

BJ adds some scented bubbles

SoniaW: thank you Debra. I am from New Zealand - am a Gifted Education advisor - also have a role as a director of an online learning community for Gifted Education in New Zealand

BJ hopes Jeff's wife isn't watching

DebraSp: That is great. I taught Special Ed for several years, but at the

DebraSp: other extreme.

SoniaW: GT as in gifted education, Lindsey?

LindseyLW: yes

SoniaW: cool

LindseyLW: My BA is in radio television production, but I changed my mind on my career path after graduation

SoniaW: I've just completed my masters GT

LindseyLW: Congrats!

SoniaW) thanks

DebraSp: I like to keep these informal and just have a discussion about getting published. Is there any specific question that you want addressed this evening?

LindseyLW: I have about two more years to go, and I'm loving all of my classes

DebraSp: Any questions?

LindseyLW: not yet, I might think of some as we go

DebraSp: Ok. Well, the process may seem overwhelming, but I can give some tips to make it easier.

SoniaW: great .. not sure if I'll be publishing on technology & gifted.. but who knows

DebraSp: The first thing to do is spend some time reading journals so you become familiar with what they publish.

DebraSp: Actually, Sonia, the process is the same either way.

SoniaW: yes of course

DebraSp: That may seem like a simple thing, reading the journals, but few people seem to do that based on the articles I receive.

DebraSp: By becoming familiar with the journal you can save yourself time and rejection notices.

SoniaW: good point

DebraSp: Once you know the journal and have a sense of which one you are interested in, you need to decide what topic to write about.

LindseyLW: should we worry about choosing topics that have already been addressed?

LindseyLW: I read as many journals as I can get my hands on, but I have a fear that my article could be 'plagiarizing' unintentionally

DebraSp: Good question, Lindsey. You do not want to duplicate what others are doing, but you can write about a similar topic and put a new spin on it.

LindseyLW: ok

DebraSp: Plagiarizing is taking someone else's words and passing them off as your own. If you provide clear references it is not plagiarizing.

LindseyLW: I understand, I just worry that my ideas could be too close to another article that I haven't yet read....

SoniaW: isn't also about providing your own opinion about what others have said (once you reference their work) -- or offering a fresh perspective about the literature?

DebraSp: I had one of my articles plagiarized once. It happens, but you have to know how to deal with it.

DebraSp: You are not accountable for writing something that is similar to someone else's work if you have never read the work.

SoniaW: so if I write an article about perfectionism, for instance, I'd be referring to other experts, and their research, but it'd be pulling it together with my own observations and possibly recommendations for teachers or parents - is that what you mean, Debra?

DebraSp: Part of the responsibilities of the editor is to try to catch those situations.

DebraSp: Yes, that is what I mean Sonia.

LindseyLW: what is the best way to present your article to a journal, direct mail or email?

DebraSp: It depends on the journal. You need to read the Author Guidelines to see how they want articles submitted.

DebraSp: Guidelines provide a lot of information about length of article and the style used.

DebraSp: Good idea to always read guidelines before you begin.

SoniaW: ..sorry to leave - it's interesting.. but this is my work hours here in NewZealand, and I have an appointment looming - nice to have met you all

DebraSp: JTATE, my journal< had everything submitted online.

DebraSp: By, Sonia. BJ can send you a transcript if you want so you can see what you missed.

LindseyLW: bye Sonia

BJ nods to Sonia.

SoniaW: that would be nice - thanks BJ

SoniaW: bye all

SoniaW left the room.

DebraSp: Most journals in technology field have websites that provide guidelines.

LindseyLW: I assume that the guidelines will also detail what format the journal wants me to cite my sources with

DebraSp: Yes. Many education journals use APA style, but some use other styles.

JeffC: : All of my articles are heavily hyperlinked... they don't translate that well into hard copy.

DebraSp: If you do not follow the guidelines the article will be often rejected without being reviewed.

DebraSp: Print journals use URLs for hyperlinked articles, Jeff.

JamesCh joined the room.

DebraSp waves to James

BJ: good job, James. Welcome

JamesCh: Thanks!

LindseyLW: hi James

JamesCh: Hi

JeffC: : Well... my last article (<http://snurl.com/netc1>) had over 50 links... it is published in hardcopy (and they gave a whole page for the URLs)... it's just... virtual beats paper for that type of writing.

DebraSp: James, we are talking about getting our work published. Any questions you have?

DebraSp: There are advantages and disadvantages to both types of publishing.

JamesCh: What was Jeff's article about?

JeffC: : "Building 21st Century Collaborative Learning Communities"

JamesCh: I should probably read it, before I ask more questions

DebraSp: Sounds interesting, Jeff

DebraSp: One thing you want to find out if the journal is peer reviewed or not.

DebraSp: This is important if you are working in higher ed.

DebraSp: Not so important for K-12

JamesCh: Why not?

DebraSp: In higher ed being published in peer reviewed journals is a requirement for tenure. That is not true for K-12

JamesCh: Makes sense, I thought you meant for feed back.

DebraSp: No, you always want the feedback. Even non-refereed journals provide feedback, although usually just from the editor.

DebraSp: Refereed journal articles are read by at least 3 people.

JamesCh: Do you have a different writing style if it is peer reviewed?

DebraSp: Not really. It depends on the journal as to what the writing style is.

DebraSp: Usually research focused journals tend to be peer reviewed.

DebraSp: Articles that talk about specific activities/lessons without a research focus tend not to be peer reviewed. This is a generalization and not a fact.

JamesCh: Jeff, is your article based in research?

DebraSp: Learning and Leading with Technology is a well respected journal, but it is not peer reviewed.

JamesCh: Shouldn't anything published go towards research?

DebraSp: Education Technology is one of the best journals in the field and it is not peer reviewed.

JamesCh: For tenured positions?

DebraSp: When I mention research I mean a formal study, with data, either quantitative or qualitative.

JamesCh: So why aren't these journals peer reviewed?

DebraSp: Tenured process wants to see research publications, but they will give credit for non-research publications. However, it depends on the university you are at.

DebraSp: Good question. I am not sure why they aren't. I guess it has to do with the type of articles they publish.

JamesCh: If you were going for tenure, you would only want to publish in certain journals?

DebraSp: It takes time to have an article reviewed, especially when it needs to be read by 3 people.

DebraSp: You want to publish in a wide range of journals to show variety and to reach different audiences, but you do want some publications in well-known peer-reviewed journals.

JamesCh: If it is not in peer reviewed journals, are the articles still taken into consideration?

JamesCh: For tenure?

DebraSp: Yes, but may not carry as much weight.

JamesCh: Could your articles be published in both places?

DebraSp: The tenure process is difficult to quantify as it is very different at each university. What counts for one university may not count for another.

DebraSp: Not the same article. Once an article is accepted for publication, the journal holds the copyright.

JamesCh: That would be the focus of the university?

DebraSp: You can write different journals for different populations.

JamesCh: You lose the copyright after publication?

DebraSp: I am not sure what you mean by "focus of the university"?

DebraSp: You have the copyright, but not the right to republish elsewhere. You sign a form that gives the journal copyright permission.

JamesCh: What counts for one university may not count for another. Is it the interest of the university, what they specialize in?

DebraSp: The journal has the right to allow the article to be republished elsewhere.

DebraSp: It is the type of university it is, whether it is a research one university or not.

JamesCh: That seems rather difficult for someone trying to get tenured.

DebraSp: Universities are in tier groups. The higher up the tier you are, the more you are expected to publish and more research-base is needed.

DebraSp: Each university should provide the guidelines for tenure to its faculty.

JamesCh: I should think that a university would be happy that their faculty is publishing in any journal.

JamesCh: Within the field.

DebraSp: Most are, but top universities expect more. They want to know that you are pushing the field forward. To do that you must conduct research to see what works and what doesn't. That is why they want you publishing in top journals.

DebraSp: My university accepts publications in any journal.

JamesCh: That makes sense, but I thought certain top journals weren't peer reviewed or is that only for certain universities?

JamesCh: That's good!

DebraSp: Each university handles tenure cases differently. I can tell you how we handle it here. We actually have a team of elected faculty that review all cases.

DebraSp: The team rotates for two years.

JamesCh: How is it determined that you are pushing the field forward?

JamesCh: Is it based on what works in your research?

DebraSp: You submit a portfolio that shows what you are doing. You write a reflection that talks about the impact of your work on the field.

DebraSp: You discuss what journals you are published in, their readership, their acceptance rate, etc. this gives the people an idea of what you are doing.

JamesCh: And there are three people who determine this?

DebraSp: At my university there are 5 people on the team.

JamesCh: Sounds like you are at a good university.

DebraSp: In addition there is a First Tier group that consists of three faculty members. They provide info to the FET.

LindseyLW joined the room.

LindseyLW: I apologize

JamesCh: Hi Lindsey

BJ: wb, Lindsey

DebraSp: You also have outside reviewers, people at other universities who are in your field.

LindseyLW: my computer shut down on me and I just now got back

DebraSp: Hi, Lindsey. Welcome back.

LindseyLW: thank you

DebraSp: We are discussing the tenure process as it relates to publication.

LindseyLW: ok

DebraSp: Yes, James. I am at a very good university.

JamesCh: What are you teaching?

DebraSp: Well, our time is up. I teach in the Instructional Technology Program and in Elementary Ed.

DebraSp: I teach courses that deal with integrating technology in K-12 and teacher ed. I also teach courses on emerging technologies.

DebraSp: I guess that is all for tonight, folks. I hope to see you again next month. I have enjoyed our conversations.

JamesCh: I have to go eat dinner, thanks for talking.

LindseyLW: thank you Debra

LindseyLW: I look forward to reading the parts I missed

DebraSp: Lindsey if you have questions once you read the transcript feel free to email me.

DebraSp: Have a good dinner James.

LindseyLW smiles

DebraSp: my e-mail address is dspragul@gmu.edu

LindseyLW: got it, thank you again

DebraSp: You are welcome. Bye.

BJ: Thanks, Debbie!

DebraSp: You are welcome. Until next month..[November 22, 2004].