

CPD & Writing for the professional literature

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IFLA CPDWL; Satellite Meeting, Oslo, Norway, 2005

Outline

- Link between writing and professional development
 - Insight.
 - Career prospects.
- Tips on how to approach writing.
- Types of writing.
- Where to publish?

Sources:

1) Nick Joint

“Writing for publication in a library journal”

SCONUL Newsletter - Number 28
Spring 2003 pp. 61-66.

2) Ideas from Linda Ashcroft , editor
New Library World.

CPD, writing and publication (1)

- Becoming a '*Reflective practitioner*'
 - you think about your practice by writing about your practice.
- Idea of '*Reflection*':
 - Writing as a form of creative dialogue with yourself

CPD, writing and publication (2)

Reflection involves cultivating:

- “the desire to understand your practice in a new and compelling way”
- “the need to pin down a truth about your practice and thus clarify an issue for yourself and the community of practice”

CPD, writing and publication (3)

- Connect with your '*community of practice*'
 - Writing as dialogue with other professionals
- Putting your practice 'on display'
 - means shaping your work more, thus improving your professional development.

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CPD, writing and publication (3)

- Writing and career development:
 - Your material is disseminated across a wide audience.
 - You lay claim to your achievements.
 - You gain recognition for your work.
 - You build your reputation and develop your career.

Think: what have you achieved (1)?

- Have you completed a project which concluded satisfactorily?
- Do you have a case study of good practice?
- Have you worked in an advisory or consultancy capacity?
- Have you undertaken a piece of research?
- Are you working on a doctoral or masters thesis?
- Have you given a speech or conference paper?
- Do you have an opinion or observation on a topical issue?

(Thanks to *Linda Ashcroft*, Editor, New Library World)

What have you achieved (2)?

If you find these questions hard to answer, then this is a spur to improving your professional development!

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What have you achieved (3)?

- “The ability to write is a sign of good practice...”
- “If you spurn the challenge of authorship, you may also be spurning the challenge of improving your professional development.”

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Which type of journal?

- Before writing decide which journal is most relevant for your topic
- Difference between
 - Research journals
 - Practitioner publications
 - “Practitioner research” journals

Journal quality criteria

- Highly cited journals:
 - High academic prestige, better for *researchers*
- Journals with wide readership:
 - Arguably better for *practitioners*, especially for CPD point of view.
- Ideal of practitioner research:
 - Highly *cited* and *widely read*!

Types of writing

Research - Impact

- Refereed articles
 - **research reports (experiment)**
 - **case studies (before and after)**
 - **review articles (literature-based)**
- Feature articles (**descriptive**)
- Commentary/opinion pieces (**subjective**)
- Conference reports
- Reviews - **of books or electronic resources**

Practice - Visibility

Outlets for publishing (1)


- Emerald has a very wide range of library and information journals
- Mix of *practitioner* and *research journals*
- *Refereeing process*
- As well as hard copy journals, articles are available electronically via the Emerald database
 - **which means very wide international dissemination**

Outlets for publishing (2)

- Professional association journals
 - Eg National Library Association - Prestige plus circulation to all association members: UK, CILIP Library + Information UPDATE.
- Journals of other professional societies
 - Prestige plus access to members of the society: UK SCOUNL FOCUS/Newsletter.
- *Perhaps less emphasis on refereeing process*

Library Review

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/lr.htm>

The logo for Emerald, featuring a stylized green swirl icon above the word "Emerald" in a white sans-serif font, all contained within a black rounded square.

Emerald

- “links researchers, educators and library professionals”
- No pure research, *refereed articles*, viewpoint articles, book reviews (3 issues open access next week)
- Editorial objectives:
...**editorial links with the Centre for Digital Library Research at Strathclyde University.**

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New Library World

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/nlw.htm>



- "charting new developments for the information profession"
- refereed articles, feature articles, conference reports, book reviews

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Library Hi Tech News


<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/lhtn.htm>



- much more a news and alerting focus
- shorter feature articles, conference reports, regular columns

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Getting started with writing

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