

Editing a Journal transcript

All right. So, welcome to this deep dive everyone. Uh, we're going to be looking at something today that's super relevant, I think, to a lot of you out there, especially the faculty at our university.

Yeah, for sure. I mean, we're talking about editing a journal, right? So, pretty high level stuff, but also something that a lot of faculty eventually considered doing. Yeah. You know, at some point in their career.

Yeah, exactly. And, you know, thankfully we have this great resource to draw on level up, a mid-career guide for faculty, which is available on the center for faculty excellence website.

Now what's really great about this particular publication is that it was actually written by faculty for faculty. So it's like getting advice straight from your peers who have been there done that.

Exactly. And that's why we are focusing on an article from Level Up today editing a journal by Tracy Bridgeford from the college of arts and sciences.

Right. And she really hits on some key things that anyone thinking about becoming a journal editor should know. Yeah. Like the perks but also the uh you know the challenges and the time commitment involved. Yeah. So, let's get into it. Why don't we start with the positives? What makes editing a journal so attractive to faculty?

Well, I think one of the biggest draws is the influence you have. You know, as an editor, you get to really

shape the direction of scholarship in your field.

Oh, yeah. Absolutely. You're basically deciding what gets published, what gets seen by the academic community.

Exactly. You're curating the conversation and that in turn enhances your own professional profile. Right. You're seen as a leader, an expert. in your area.

Makes sense. And it's not just about the ideas themselves, right? There's also a huge networking component to being an editor.

Oh, for sure. You're constantly connecting with leading scholars, reviewers, upand coming researchers. It's a global network and you never know what kinds of collaborations might come out of it.

Yeah. And that's not even mentioning the fact that you're exposed to cutting edge research before anyone else. You know, you get to see what's coming down the pipeline before it's even published.

So, yeah. I mean, in terms of staying current in your field, it's hard to beat.

Okay. So, we've got influencing the field working staying current and the article also talks about something else that I think is really important the role of editors in maintaining high scholarly standards

right because ultimately as an editor you're responsible for ensuring the integrity of the publication process right that the research being published is rigorous and meets the highest standards of quality

and that reflects well on the entire university too right like it shows that our faculty are serious about producing top-notch scholarship

absolutely so yeah there are tons of benefits is being a journal editor.

But like with anything, there's a flip side, right? I mean, the article is very upfront about the time commitment involved in editing a journal.

Oh, yeah. It is a huge time commitment, way more than most people realize. And I think that's something that a lot of faculty don't fully grasp until they're actually in the thick of it.

You're juggling reviewing manuscripts, communicating with authors, reviewers, you know, copy editing, meeting deadlines. It's a lot.

It is. And it's all on top of your regular teaching and research responsibilities. So, you're essentially adding another major project to your plate.

And at the end of the day, you're the one making the final decisions about what gets published. Right.

Exactly. The buck stops with the editor. You're overseeing the entire peer review process, reading those manuscripts, carefully, weighing the feedback from reviewers, and ultimately you're the one who decides whether a submission meets the journal standards.

And speaking of peer review, the article doesn't sugarcoat that process either, right? It can be pretty demanding.

Uh, it can be. Yeah. I mean, selecting right reviewers, managing their timelines, dealing with conflicting feedback. Sometimes you even have to navigate some uh some pretty big egos. Let's just say it takes a lot of diplomacy and a lot of patience.

So, you're not just passively reading submissions, right? You're really actively shaping the direction of the journal.

Yeah, that's a big part of the job. You know, identifying emerging trends in the field, thinking about special issues, things like it keeps you on your toes intellectually, but it's also very rewarding.

And that seems to be a key takeaway from the article. Despite all the challenges, there's a real sense of fulfillment that comes with editing a journal.

Oh, absolutely. You're contributing to your field. You're helping to advance scholarship. You're guiding new research into the world. It's a very active way of participating in the evolution of your discipline

and it forces you to stay sharp. You know, you're constantly engaging with new ideas and that can only benefit your own research and teaching.

Right. Exactly. And that's something that a lot of faculty find really valuable.

Okay. So, now for the big question, the timing of it all. When is the right time for a faculty member to take on an editorial role.

Well, the article is pretty clear on this. Ideally, you should be tenured before taking on such a major commitment.

Yeah, that makes sense because as we've talked about, it is a huge time commitment and for pre-tenure faculty that could be a real detriment.

Exactly. So, yeah, the advice is pretty straightforward. If you're pre-tenure, focus on getting tenure first, then think about editing a journal.

And for anyone who is considering it, the article recommends reaching out to some key people, right?

Yeah, definitely talk to colleagues who have experience editing a journal. Talk to your chair.

Talk to the outgoing editor if possible. And most importantly, take some time to really reflect on whether this is the right fit for you at this point in your career.

Great advice. And the article also includes some additional resources, some references that people can check out if they want to delve deeper into this.

Yeah, absolutely.

Well, this has been a really fascinating look at the world of academic journal editing.

It has.

Yeah.

Yeah. And I think it's clear here that while it's a lot of work, it can also be incredibly rewarding both professionally and personally.

So to our listeners out there, as you think about how you want to contribute to your field and advance your career here at the university, keep in mind what we've discussed today, the influence, the intellectual stimulation, but also the demands on your time and energy, right? And think about how editing a journal might fit into your own unique path and the questions that this raises about your role in shaping the future of scholarship.

Lot to consider for sure. All right, thanks for joining us for this deep dive and we'll see you next time.

See you then.