LACUNY Junior Faculty Research Roundtable Meeting Minutes, March 2010

LACUNY

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2010 MEETING
LACUNY JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE
March 17, 2010, 2:00 pm
Graduate Center, Rm 9207

1. Jill Cirasella, Brooklyn
2. Maura Smale, City Tech
3. Christina Miller, York
4. Reabeka King, KBCC
5. Amy Ballmer, GC
6. Beth Posner, GC
7. Mark Aaron Polger, CSI
8. Sandy Urban, York
9. Cynthia Tobar, GC
10. Dorothea Coiffe, BMCC
11. Seamus Scanlon, Center for Worker Education
12. Alycia Sellie, Brooklyn
13. Emma Curtis, CCNY
14. Marta Bladek, John Jay
15. Karen Mason, Medgar Evers
16. Keith Muchowski, City Tech
17. Carl R. Andrews, Medgar Evers
18. Shea Taylor, CCNY
19. Stefanie Havelka, Lehman
20. Helen Georgas, Brooklyn
21. Karen Okamoto, John Jay
22. Rebecca Arzola, Lehman
23. Jean Boggs, KBCC

Today's meeting began with a presentation by Jim Walther from Emerald Publishing, giving both Emerald-specific and general publishing advice.

Emerald publishes "research you can use" -- research with practical applications. They suggest that you should assume that your readers want to know what you want to know. Most of their journals are practical rather than theoretical. Especial strengths in LIS are reference and collection development.

Emerald is a British company with international scope that publishes journals online and in print, and also acquired Series and Books from Elsevier in 2008 (can do smaller runs, e.g., 400-500 copies). Management science was the background of Emerald's founders, so much LIS coverage has management component. There are 17 Emerald LIS journals; almost all are double-blind peer reviewed. Emerald is actively creating new journals, too: 27 in 2009, 30 in 2010 (across all subject areas).

Emerald seeks to publish research that makes a difference through:
- application in practice
- influencing public policy
- use in the classroom
- developing research in the field

They have a preprint service called EarlyCite: once your manuscript has gone through peer- and editorial review and has been accepted, they give you complete citation information (including page count) and make the article available in Word on their website.

Journals: usually quarterly, 3,000-6,000 words per article, about 5-6 articles/issue, special issues at middle or end of the volume, peer-reviewed, mostly distributed to academic librarians via subscription database

Books: irregular (and flexible) release schedule, 10-12 chapters, not always peer-reviewed, 5,000-10,000 words per chapter

Where to start -- what to write about:
- traditional research
- part of a thesis or dissertation
- when you are concluding a successful project
- wrestling with a problem with no clear solution?
- opinion or observation on a subject
- work with someone at another library to compare case studies
- presentation or conference paper
- what meetings do you have to go to? what comes out of those meetings?

Other advice:

- Be aware of the differences between libraries in different geographical regions, and explain your situation at the beginning of the article.

- Identify a few possible target journals/series but be realistic

- Read all of the info about the journal before submitting an article: scope, objectives, type of review, etc.

- On the Emerald website, typically the journal info is on the right side of the screen (Emerald website: (http://www.emeraldinsight.com)

- Journal editors are usually faculty or experts in LIS

- Look at the editorial advisory board! Might be a good place to start if you know any of them.

- Read all of the info about the journal: scope, objectives, reviewing, etc. before submitting an article.

- Might want to write a 300 word or so proposal to send to the journal editor first to explore feasibility of that journal publishing your article (there could be an article on a similar topic already queued for publication).

Jim also explained the essentials of the research article:
- purpose
- methodology (whys and hows, might be smaller if it's a very practical article)
- literature review
- argument and findings
- conclusion
- complete references

Some key questions asked by editors/peer reviewers about a manuscript:
- readability (is it clear?)
- originality (what's new?)
- credibility (valid conclusions? don't hide any limitations with the research)

- applicability (practical, can you use it?)
- internationality (don't make titles too dependent on America metaphors/turns of phrase)

Emerald uses structured abstracts (searchable on their website) which have a very consistent format, so you will need to submit an abstract in that style.

Revising: a request for revision is good news! Don't panic, nearly every published article is revised at least once. Don't take the reviewers' comments personally.

How do you revise your manuscript?
- acknowledge the editor and set a deadline
- clarify anything you have questions about
- meet the deadline!
- attach a cover letter which identifies all changes, point by point

If your paper is rejected, ask why and don't take it personally! Sometimes the article just might not be the best fit for the journal, and you should try again with a different journal.

Beyond authoring an article, there are other opportunities with Emerald:
- book reviewing
- peer reviewing/refereeing
- editorial advisory board membership
- contributing editorship
- regional editorship (for a group of publications in a subject, e.g., LIS)
- editorship

Get in touch if you are interested. Right now there are opportunities with the following journals:
- The Electronic Library
- Interlending and Document Supply
- Library Management
- Library Review
- New Library World

Library Hi Tech News can use content right now, including reviews of technologies, etc.

On the Emerald website -- create a username (register) to get access to lots of publishing advice, etc. (they will send offers to your email a couple times/yr, not excessive). There is also the opportunity to contribute to content on their website, e.g., short, 1,000 word "Viewpoints."

Open access/self-archiving: the preprints drop off of EarlyCite when the issue goes to press, Jim said they don't currently allow self-archiving of final, formatted PDFs but plan to change that policy soon (though according to SHERPA/RoMEO they do allow self-archiving of pre-prints and post-prints), so check your contract closely!).

Thanks to Jim from Emerald for all of this great information!

After Jim's presentation finished we spent the rest of the meeting housekeeping/planning. Our next meeting will be in May, and we discussed a few possible topics including:
- publishing in the LIS "biggies"
- publishing in discipline-specific journals
- publishing in education and pedagogy journals

Also at the May meeting we'll celebrate all of our accomplishments (with cupcakes!), with especial consideration for our members who've gained tenure and are "graduating" from the group. It was also suggested that we send a summary of the JFRR meeting topics/events for the year to News from CUNY Libraries.

Finally, Jill and Maura reiterated that they will step down as co-chairs of the JFRR at the end of this year. Mark Aaron Polger and Dorothea Coiffe have expressed interest in running for co-chairs, and other nominations are welcome. We'll vote officially at the May meeting.

We ended the meeting with a few of our usual announcements:

- Let us know if you're not on the email list and would like to be
- Remember the wiki! (http://jfrr.pbworks.com/) Feel free to use it to develop resources, for collaboration, however you'd like.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm

Minutes submitted by Maura Smale, City Tech, and Jill Cirasella, Brooklyn College