

2012

Editors' Preface

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Suggested Citation

Shaw, Sherry and Roberson, Len (2012) "Editors' Preface," *Journal of Interpretation*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/joi/vol22/iss1/1>

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EDITORS' PREFACE

In 2012, the JOI continued its 'reinvention' in the digital age, digitizing past editions of the journal and becoming an open resource for the general public. If you have ever experienced frustration trying to locate articles in prior editions that you might have misplaced or cannot locate in a common database, you will be pleased to know that in 2013, you will have prior issues of the JOI at your fingertips in the Digital Commons (<http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/joi/>). As researchers, this open and free access to the riches of JOI is a boon for locating high-quality literature on relevant topics that inform our own research. As with previous JOI issues, the 2012 issue is available online and printed versions are not automatically mailed to RID members.

While JOI is devoted to publishing research-based work that contributes evidence to the professional practice of interpreting, this edition marks a concentrated effort to spotlight scholarly works that fulfill another of JOI's purposes, to publish practitioner essays on contemporary issues. In this issue, you will read scholarly commentary on current topics raised by researchers Eileen Forestal and Christopher Stone, among others (by Stephanie Kent). You will also experience a replication of prior works on *footing* (by Annie Marks). You will gain insight into the perspectives of members of Deaf-hearing interpreting teams as you read the article by Bentley-Sassaman and Dawson. The article authored by Stephens examines indigenous signs for countries in the world and shares with readers a website created to show both written descriptions and videos of the signs.

The scope of the JOI is to stimulate discussion and inquiry into the issues that hold the most promise for promoting the quality of an interpreted product. The editors weigh contributions based on their potential to improve our professional practice, and while some submissions are not deemed appropriate for the JOI, those that are selected receive the full attention of the editors to bring a manuscript up to the standard of publishable quality.

"Publishable quality" is a standard for all contributions to the JOI, and sometimes it takes longer to prepare some manuscripts than others. We are committed in 2013 to continue to streamline the JOI review process and smooth out any wrinkles left in our paper-to-digital transfer experienced over the past year. As we publish this volume, we are already well on our way to completing the review process for the 12 manuscripts we received for the 2013 JOI. We hope to expand our editorial board and we invite anyone who is interested in serving as a reviewer to send us a CV/resume expressing your interest. Also, if you have any feedback about this JOI edition or the journal, in general, please do not hesitate to drop us a line. We are committed to making the JOI the best it can be, and your input would be valuable in getting us closer to this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, the RID, as JOI Editors.

Kind regards for a wonderful year,

Sherry Shaw and Len Roberson