

---

2014

## Editors' Preface

Sherry Shaw

University of North Florida, sherry.shaw@unf.edu

Len Roberson

University of North Florida, len.roberson@unf.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/joi>

---

### Suggested Citation

Shaw, Sherry and Roberson, Len (2014) "Editors' Preface," *Journal of Interpretation*: Vol. 23: Iss. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/joi/vol23/iss1/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Exceptional, Deaf, and Interpreter Education at UNF Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Interpretation by an authorized editor of the JOI, on behalf of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). For more information, please contact [len.roberson@unf.edu](mailto:len.roberson@unf.edu).

© All Rights Reserved

## **Editors' Preface**

### **What to Expect from a JOI Manuscript Review**

As we embark on our fourth year as JOI editors, we reflect on this year's influx of manuscript submissions for review. We are grateful to several new researchers who reached out to JOI and submitted research reports associated with coursework in master's and doctoral programs. We worked with numerous other researchers and authors who sought the JOI as a means to improve their writing and reporting skills through the mentorship of reviewers and editors. The challenge we faced was ensuring that each manuscript received a proper vetting for appropriateness for JOI publication and a thorough, objective review of the manuscript content. Our Editorial Board worked overtime this year, reading original submissions and then re-reading the authors' revisions to make sure the quality of the JOI was upheld in the final version of each manuscript. In addition to having a devoted and tireless Editorial Board, the JOI is fortunate to have the technical support of its host site, the Digital Commons at the University of North Florida.

According to the RID website, the JOI is a "scholarly publication that includes articles, research reports and commentaries relevant to the interpreting field. The JOI reflects a broad, interdisciplinary approach to the interpretation and translation of languages." Let's take this description of the JOI and analyze what it means to those of us who are researchers, commentators, consumers of interpreting services, interpreters, and interpreter educators. First of all, a 'scholarly publication' is a peer-reviewed journal that evaluates the quality of its submissions by high academic standards. To construct a 'scholarly' manuscript that is eligible for JOI review, authors must pay close attention to high standards of credibility, style, and the academic language of the American Psychological Association Style Manual, APA 6<sup>th</sup>. Unless a manuscript was solicited as a commentary, citation of sources is mandatory to maintain the author's credibility. In addition to improperly citing sources within the text, the most prevalent errors in journal submissions are found in APA-related reference lists (Onwuegbuzie, Hwang, Combs, & Slate, 2012). A manuscript that fails to cite references accurately within the text or in the reference list may be returned to an author before being sent for review by the JOI Editorial Board. Naturally, minor errors or reference omissions can be corrected later if the manuscript's content is sound and otherwise eligible for editorial review. Additionally, and most important to reporting findings from a research project, is the documentation that the project was approved by a monitoring body, such as an Institutional Review Board, for ethical research with human subjects prior to data collection. In next year's call for manuscripts, the JOI will emphasize that all research with human subjects must use an informed consent process for enlisting participants. Research reports that do not document ethical practices in data collection will not be published in the JOI.

The second point in the JOI description is 'relevant to the interpreting field'. A manuscript may be interesting and informative, but if editors and reviewers do not deem the report to be relevant to working interpreters and interpreter educators, the JOI is not the best venue to publish the manuscript. When we receive manuscripts like this, we attempt to locate alternative journals to recommend to authors. More often, a manuscript is quite interesting,

but its content, style, or audience does not meet the criteria for publication that the JOI has established over the years. In cases where the manuscript is well written but does not appropriately fit into the JOI's scope, the VIEWS might be the best forum for publication. Speaking of relevance, the vibrant discussions and informed opinions that are regularly voiced on Street Leverage have been excellent for stimulating deeper thinking about our work as interpreters and our relationships with peers, professionals, and community. Anyone looking for a research topic need go no further than to explore the many excellent expressions of professional concern found on the Street Leverage website (<http://www.streetleverage.com/>). These ideas are the ideal starting point for designing a systemic investigation that can lead to real evidence. We extend the challenge to any of you who want to contribute toward our professional growth through research.

Becoming the most qualified practitioners we can be involves learning from others and incorporating new information into our daily work as interpreters. We can maximize our learning by becoming efficient consumers of the literature, which documents evidence about all aspects of the interpreting task. That is where the JOI can benefit your professional practice. The evidence that results from carefully designed studies can be used with some assurance that what we are doing is based upon data-driven information rather than anecdotal solutions to researchable problems. If we want our work to be evidence-based, we must commit to spending time in the literature and studying what researchers are discovering about the 'black box' that contains the interpreting process, as we know it. The difficulty, of course, is managing the time to enjoy and learn from the scholarly attempts of those who are busy gathering evidence on various aspects of interpreting. We hope you find this edition of the JOI to be stimulating and relevant to your work, so when you have completed your reading, you have strategies for incorporating new ideas, perfecting your skills, and improving interpreting services to consumers.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for improving the JOI!

Warm regards,

Sherry and Len

### References

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Onwuegbuzie, A. J., Hwang, E., Combs, J. P., & Slate, J. R. (2012). Evidence-based guidelines for avoiding reference list errors in manuscripts submitted to journals for review for publication: A replication case study of Educational Researcher. *Research in the Schools*, 19(2), i-xvi.