**teSS Scholarship Circle Sheffield University**

**Session 2: Finding the right journal 2016 Sally Brown** s.brown@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

1. What is the right journal for me? You need to make some realistic choices based on your publishing plan:
2. High impact factor journal or getting a foot on the ladder?
3. A long-established or a less well-known one?
4. Single nation or international?
5. Paper or electronic?
6. A practically-orientated or a more theoretical one?
7. One that prefers qualitative or quantitative articles?
8. What might impact on your decision:
9. Pressure to publish only in high-impact journals;
10. The extent to which you are in a hurry;
11. Advice from colleagues/mentors about how innovative this work is;
12. Whether you or your mentor has any contacts within an editorial team.
13. How does the editorial process work?
14. You having decided that your work is ready, you submit your material (normally on line nowadays);
15. An editor or an editorial assistant gives it a first scrutiny based on the title and the abstract, and decides whether your article fits the journal’s requirements;
16. If it does, two or more reviewers are allocated, normally with around a three-week turnaround time (if not, you should get an immediate rejection);
17. The editor or editorial assistant looks at what the reviewers have said to see if there is consensus, either to publish as it stands (very rare), publish with minor revisions (much more common), publish it with major revisions (also pretty common), to ask you to do more work without any assurance of acceptance (not unusual) or reject (also not unusual). If there is no consensus, they may seek a further reviewer, or the editor may take on this role herself/himself;
18. For anything other than an outright rejection or an instant acceptance, the response to you has to be crafted by the editor or editorial assistant which can also take considerable time.
19. Why should anyone want to publish your article?
20. Are you meeting a real need for readers to know about an innovation or development?
21. Are you approaching a topic in a novel way that takes account of previous work in the field, but then adds innovative findings or reinterpretation?
22. Are you addressing an area or issue where there is hunger for people to know more or understand something better?
23. Are you reporting on some work or a project that really deserves an audience because it might change practice or benefit students?
24. How do you evaluate the impact of a journal? (slide 33 & 34)

**Journal scrutiny task**

For your selected journals, check:

1. What is the aim and scope of this journal?
2. Do they give you any information about the status of the journal?
3. What guidance do they give about word counts, referencing conventions, headings etc.?
4. Do they permit line drawings, screen shots, photographs, diagrams and so on?
5. Can you use colour?
6. Are you expected to gain clearance for any third-party images yourself (this is normally the case)?
7. What guidance do they give on the nature and approach or articles deemed acceptable?
8. Are they willing to discuss the scope or remit of your article before you submit it (usually not, but can be worth a quick email to the editor)?
9. Will they only accept work based on qualitative research?
10. Do they accept work-in-progress, opinion pieces and/or literature reviews?
11. What do they require in terms of preparing and submitting your manuscript?
12. What do they tell you about the peer review process?
13. Is information available about the peer-reviewed refereeing process, e.g. how many reviewers will see your work?
14. Do they require payment (for standard processing, for rapid processing)?
15. What rights do you have over your work when you have had it published?