



Editorial ELTA Journal

ELTA is proud to have published the first issue of ELTA Journal. In this first Editorial we would like to present and explain some of the major ideas that have shaped the creation of ELTA Journal and to adopt the position that will serve as the benchmark for future issues.

ELTA Journal has been founded in order to better connect research and practice in the field of ELT, to promote interdisciplinary publications and to bring international perspective along with that of Serbia's in the ELT.

The connection between research and practice is visible in several aspects of ELTA Journal. Firstly, the journal is peer-reviewed meaning that two highly credible researchers anonymously review each article. In this way, practitioners have an opportunity to receive high quality feedback from the academia. Next, practitioners and teachers who are mostly occupied with very practical activities take the opportunity to delve more deeply into theories and then see how it can be accommodated to their particular context. On the other hand, researchers who focus in their examination of the phenomena on theoretical issues are encouraged through this journal to reflect more on knowledge dissemination and its findings/implications for the practice, even if they were just tentative.

Following the trends in research that underscore teacher development based on reflective practice and classroom research, the first and the issues to come will primarily publish articles produced by teachers and the ELT practitioners. The intention behind such idea of ELTA is to elevate the teaching profession with the ultimate goal of improving student and teacher learning. By writing an article, teachers choose to develop by reflecting on their practice and in this way question their beliefs, values and principles. In the context of Serbia, teacher development has so far mostly been based on external training whereby teachers attend workshops or seminars covering various didactic themes. Unquestionably useful, this form of development adds little to personal and professional growth, due to its focus on short-term initiatives such as e.g. how to plan a lesson or how to manage large groups.

Another reason for focusing on teachers' articles is ELTA's mission to acknowledge teachers' work and to give them respect and position they deserve for their hard work and contribution to student learning, again especially in the context of Serbia that saw degradation of education and ethical principles due to war years and economic hardship. In this issue, there are two articles that bring teacher practice to the forefront: 'From teachers to learners' by Gavrilovic, S. as well as 'Making a magazine and TV blog' by Ivanovic-Bozic, M.

This is not to say that by focusing on articles written by practitioners, the academia and its well-established research is to be left out. On the contrary, articles from this field are more than welcome as well. It is the article 'The Effects of Learner-generated Images' by Vasiljević Z. coming from the field of sociolinguistics that represents a piece of classic research.

Another goal of ELTA Journal is to promote interdisciplinary research that would better inform the ELT. Globalization and new demands on teachers urge us to broaden our views in order to attain a more comprehensive picture of the ELT world. ELTA Journal would like to encourage the submission of contributions from the educational policy level, school/educational leadership, lifelong learning, inclusion etc. In this issue, an example of such article can be found in

'Addressing diversity and equality in the field of early childhood education and care' by Banković I.

Finally, the journal is international in its scope and it welcomes contributions from all over the world. In this first issue, there are articles written by researchers and teachers from Japan, Russia, Cyprus and Uruguay in addition to those from Serbia.

The Editorial team would like to thank all the people who contributed to the journal's creation. In the first place, many thanks to ELTA president Ms. Danijela Serafijanović who supported the idea from the start; ELTA Board, who formally approved our idea and granted the financial means. Further, we would like to express our gratitude to Ms. Marija Panić on her support regarding technical issues, marketing and communication and Mr. Nemanja Mladenović for the website design. Lastly we owe much gratitude to eminent professors who reviewed the articles and of course to our contributors.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and we look forward to receiving your feedback and article contributions.

Yours truly,

ELTA Journal Editorial Team