

Publications Chair Annual Report

It is a pleasure to present to you this report as I reflect on the work of the Publications team during a tumultuous twelve months. I am incredibly grateful for the dedication, energy and support from such a great team as I navigated uncharted waters in this new role.

Things got off to a great start for new Editor-in-Chief Matt Firth and I when I had to postpone our February meeting to April due to what I hope was the 'flu. During this time, the team suddenly saw their workload increase overnight due to *that* L word, but with some quick thinking and adapting, we decided to combine the Spring and Summer Journals and make a one-off bumper edition, which helped weather the storm.

Meanwhile, Markus Dietz curated a special edition of the ETAS Newsletter, *ELT in the time of Covid*, to support teachers suddenly having to manage the short notice switch to online teaching. With the help of new team member Barbara Althaus as Gemma Lunn went on maternity leave, this message was welcomed by many within ETAS and also caught the attention of teaching associations further afield. Thank you to Patricia Daniels, our Online Content Coordinator, for making it a permanent feature on the [ETAS Journal website](#), and a huge thank you to Markus and Barbara for putting the newsletters together. I am really looking forward to seeing what you have in store for them in 2021.

In other team news, Trudy Krkoska, who, in addition to her exceptional proofreading skills, has recently taken over our monthly article picks feature, the *Editors' Choice*, which you will find [on our website](#) and mentioned on social media. This was formerly run by Eva Goeksel, who has now left Switzerland but will continue to volunteer some of her time if she can. I am looking forward to welcoming back Gemma soon as well.

The *Ask Alex* column continues to answer key questions to support you in your English teaching career with thoughtful advice. Like any column, it does need reader input so we welcome any suggestions you may have. All anonymous, of course!

Resources continues to feature reviews of books and much more, and now takes another look at those from our website. Requests are running low, however. We are very lucky to have the support of the publishers who kindly provide a complementary copy in exchange for a review, so I hope you might consider writing a review next year. You could also critique a website, blog or app that you have been using that might be of interest to others. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this column.

Web Chair Ben Hoyt and Rose Travers from Public Relations joined our meetings this year, too, providing valuable insights from elsewhere at ETAS and proving that we are all connected and working towards the same shared goals. Carol Waites also joined the team as a proofreader. Thanks to her, we now have a superb style guide and welcome addition to our brilliant proofreading team: Trudy Krkoska, Lynn Williams, David Kaufher and other newly-appointed members Sandra Meyer and Prita Muthalali. We may also have some volunteers to edit our upcoming *Focus on...* series, too, but we are always keen to hear from any members looking to add another string to their bow.

With challenge comes opportunity: The Journal has now been future-proofed to handle any further unforeseen circumstances with a new biannual schedule. Expect to see more expanded editions every summer and winter with our usual *Focus on...* series but also more news from ETAS. Please do get in touch if you have anything to share from your region or the classroom. It would be great to hear what you are up to, and there is no better way to celebrate your achievements and inspire others!

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the Journal possible during this challenging year – the generous contributors and Focus Editors, our advertisers, Alice Knoepfel, the publishers, the fantastic proofreading team, graphic designer genius Ron Sumners for the look of the Journal and our impressive [event programmes](#), to Matt for his endless enthusiasm and enjoyable emails, to Annegret Richmond for her patience and support as we found our feet, and to you, dear members, for your solidarity and kind feedback. We hope that the Journal has continued to be a valuable resource during these testing times. As I write this, the Winter 2020 issue is in the final stages of publication. We cannot wait to hear what you think at the Annual Conference and AGM online in January and hope that it has been worth the wait.

In what was initially going to be a one-year post, I have decided to stay on as Publications Chair. Even 2020 couldn't scared me off! Here's to more connecting, growing and thriving.

“Everything in life is writeable. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.” - Sylvia Plath

Hannah McCulloch, December 2020

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