

**Plan to Develop a New International Journal**  
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Introduction

This is a plan to develop a new international journal that will focus on issues relevant to prison education, to make new and useful information available to prison educators. It will be an electronic, juried, quarterly periodical without cost to readers, tailored to help meet the needs of prison educators in various nations and settings. The new journal's editorial board will include academics and practitioners from the populated continents. The plan is constructed so the journal can either (a) be a stand-alone periodical or (b) become an organizational component of the European Prison Education Association (EPEA). The narrative that follows outlines aspects of the journal.

Projected Audience

This journal will be tailored for persons primarily or secondarily engaged in prison education, or who are interested in prison education. For purposes of this plan the term primary engagement describes the role of prison educators and secondary engagement describes the work of professors and consultants who are pursuing research agendas in prison education. This mix will include teachers, head teachers and principals, academics, scholars, and researcher-practitioners, government administrators, and others.

Governance

The new journal will have three editions each year featuring manuscripts that have emerged from a traditional "blind review" process; the fourth edition may be devoted to a special theme, edited by a guest editor with expertise in that theme, featuring manuscripts that were especially solicited to appear in that edition.

The editorial board will consist of 45-50 experts in prison education. The managing editors will correspond with the authors to let them know that their manuscripts have been received, and then assign committees of at least three editorial board members each, based on expertise and interest, to review each submitted manuscript.

The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) will be the journal's style manual—any departures from APA will be clearly described in the journal's Instructions for Submissions, which will appear at the end of each edition.

English will be the language used for journal submissions and publishing. However, nations interested in translating articles, editions, or volumes will be encouraged in that endeavor and parallel materials in languages other than English may be available.

The journal will own copyright of its published articles for two years after the articles' appearance. However, authors may negotiate different schedules with the managing editors if they are interested in having their materials appear elsewhere, so long as a note on the first page of the resultant publication clearly states that the article originally appeared in this journal.

### Innovative Features

Each of the innovative features will be implemented at the discretion of the managing editors. Stated alternatively, the founding team members have developed a repertoire of appropriate features, but the managing editors should have authority over whether, or to what extent those features should be applied in actual journal practice.

It has been observed that the field of prison education needs an army of change agents to improve teaching and learning in confinement institutions. Toward that end special attention may be directed to encouraging new authors, facilitating their confidence, and fostering their writing skills. A small team of the editorial board may be assigned responsibility for this service.

Editorial board members may be selected and assigned for service in approximate proportion to the submission and publication of articles during the previous two-year period. The majority of the editorial board will always be from Europe.

The journal may implement an annual essay contest to promote writing about prison education. These contests can be designed to replicate the enthusiasm associated with the essay contest through which Rousseau first received public attention, and to facilitate professional writing by persons who have not yet had articles appear in the international journal.

The journal may encourage the establishment of international caucuses of networked readers (CNRs) or theme based groups of readers to promote professionalization, generate manuscripts for publication that are consistent with the field-based needs they identify, and encourage general readership. The journal may establish website chat rooms to foster CNRs development, and special editions may sometimes be planned around specific CNRs initiatives.

The journal may develop a repertoire of columns designed to inform and engage prison educators in some of the abiding aspects of the emerging field of prison education. For example, there might be regular or intermittent columns (a) by the EPEA president, articulating challenges and opportunities for program improvement, or (b) on initiatives by the EU, specific nations, or other organizations to refine or expand prison education services; or (c) that contain reviews of relevant books or research projects, or other useful endeavors.

### Summary

The plan addressed the journal's purpose of making new and useful information available to prison educators. It also addressed its projected audience, governance, and innovative features tailored to enhance the options of the managing editors: (a) a special capability to encourage and assist new prison education authors, (b) an editorial board with membership proportional to the nations or continents from which manuscripts are submitted, (c) a title page banner consistent with the highest ideals of prison education in Europe and North America, (d) an essay contest to promote interest in prison education research and scholarship, (e) periodic anthologies organized to make use of journal reprints and organized around timely topics, (f) caucuses of networked readers, (g) grassroots study groups of interested prison educators, (h) regular or intermittent columns devoted to developmental themes of interest to prison educators, (i) announcements of upcoming events, and (j) specially crafted, high interest vignettes that can maximize opportunities for the professionalization of interested, engaged prison educators.