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# Professional Development

## Importance of PD Articles for the CUE Community (and you)

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*Professional Development Section Editor*

The importance of on-going professional development (PD) which helps individuals to attain their career goals should be clear to us all. Perhaps less clear though is the immense diversity of activities through which we can achieve this.

It is my hope that the Professional Development section can shed some light on the subject by acting as an outlet through which contributors can pass on relevant knowledge of, and experiences (good or bad) with various forms of PD. The section also provides contributors with the opportunity to express their opinions about related issues which our readers might find interesting, useful or thought-provoking. Alternatively, you could respond to related articles published here or elsewhere. Through such contributions I hope to raise readers' awareness of the immense diversity of forms that PD can take and to provide information and a forum for discussion to highlight the importance of on-going PD. Readers can then take from the section what they feel will help them to attain their own professional goals.

To give you a sense of the diversity of relevant topics, as section editor I feel the term 'professional development' encompasses, but is not limited to the following:

- further vocational and/or academic education and training,
- employment/employability,
- conducting research (particularly action research),
- publishing,

- presenting and matters pertaining to résumé-building,
- professionalism,
- personal development.

As language teaching professionals it seems highly likely that we all have some knowledge of, or experience in at least one of these domains. So why not share that knowledge or experience with others and greatly contribute to their professional development? This mutual exchange seems all-the-more important in the current economic and professional climates in which many EFL professionals in Japan (and beyond) are experiencing very poor job security. Such sharing not only greatly enhances the professional development among our community which can potentially lead to better positions, but it can also strengthen our sense membership within that community.

Of course contributing to any peer-reviewed journal such as the *OnCUE Journal* increases your understanding of the publishing process and enhances your own curriculum vitae and so is in itself a form of professional development. Thus, by helping others you are also helping yourself. It is all very karmic.

So I would like to invite you to submit articles of approximately 1,000-2,500 words on issues relating to those listed above or other pertinent topics. Submissions can take the form of reflective, opinion-based pieces or empirical studies of either a qualitative and/or quantitative nature.

I look forward to hearing from you.