

# Mid-South Educational Research

## Research in the Schools Call for Editor(s)

The Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA) is seeking applicants to serve as editor for *Research in the Schools (RITS)*. *RITS (ISSN 1085-5300)* is a nationally/internationally refereed journal sponsored by the MSERA and previously produced by Sam Houston State University.

### About the Journal:

*RITS* is currently published electronically twice a year. The editor(s) is expected to provide a high-quality publication for MSERA membership that enhances MSERA exposure and prestige. The journal publishes original contributions in the following areas:

- *Research in practice* - empirical studies focusing on the results of applied educational research including cross-cultural studies
- *Topical articles* - scholarly reviews of research, perspectives on the use of research findings, theoretical articles, and related articles
- *Methods and techniques* - descriptions of technology applications in the classroom, descriptions of innovative teaching strategies in research/measurement/statistics, evaluations of teaching methods, and similar articles of interest to instructors of research-oriented courses
- *Assessment* - empirical studies of norm-referenced, criterion-referenced, and informal tests in the areas of cognitive ability, academic achievement, personality, vocational interests, neuropsychological functioning, and the like
- *Educational policy, reform, and accountability* - empirical studies or conceptual pieces focusing on educational policy, school and educator accountability, politics of education, or educational responses to reform mandates

- *Other topics of interest to educational researchers*

*RITS* is devoted to research conducted in any educational setting from a conventional elementary school or high school to a training program within an industry. Likewise, there are no age restrictions on the sample, since educational settings may include preschools, continuing education classes for adults, or adaptive skills courses in nursing homes. Studies conducted in settings such as clinics, hospitals, or prisons are ordinarily inappropriate for *RITS* unless they involve an educational program within such a setting.

The overall goal of *RITS* (*RITS*, 2009) aligns with the overall goal of MSERA (MSERA, n.d.): *to encourage and provide results of quality educational research in schools encompassing elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning*. *RITS* has an editorial board comprised of recognized educators and researchers as peer reviewers to ensure manuscripts are of high quality and interest to the education research field. While the majority of editorial board members reside in the seven MSERA states members also reside beyond these geographic boundaries. *RITS* also includes a Graduate Student Editorial Board currently composed mostly of students in educational psychology and educational research. One goal for having this board is to provide a training ground for graduate students to learn effective peer review techniques. Graduate Student Editorial Board members are sponsored by a professor, provide supplementary reviews of a selection of submitted articles, and receive both direct and indirect feedback on the quality of these reviews.

## Role Description

MSERA is seeking an outstanding academic researcher(s) or practitioner(s) with a strong academic reputation for research excellence, a passion for education, and experience in peer-review and/or editing scholarly work. The editor will have the opportunity to work with MSERA to help shape the future direction of *RITS* by identifying strategies and research to enhance the quality and reputation of the journal. Editorship is for a three-year term with the possibility of continuing for another three years based

on the pleasure of the MSERA Board of Directors and interest of the editor(s) and affiliated agency/institution/organization.

The editor will have the following responsibilities:

- Creating a strong editorial board and a slate of experienced reviewers for the journal.
- Soliciting, receiving, and processing new contributions to the journal through the peer review process.
- Upholding the journal's code of publishing ethics with all authors and peer reviewers.
- Encouraging the submission of manuscripts from both emerging and established researchers in the field.
- Managing all aspects of submissions from initial vetting of manuscripts to article selections for each issue.
- Organizing and creating structures and policies to maintain the integrity of *Research in the Schools*.
- Implementing a system for interacting with board members for receipt of reviews, recommendations, decisions, and policies.
- Chairing and directing editorial board meetings.
- Assessing the functions of the editorial board and making changes as needed.
- Advocating and representing the journal at conferences and in other professional venues.
- Developing and maintaining connections between other journals and associated organizations.
- Attending the spring and fall board meetings of the Board of Directors to obtain information about items of interest to the membership that should be reported through *RITS* and to report to the board about the production of *RITS*. The editor is appointed by the Board of Directors and is a non-voting member of the board.

The editor(s) will follow the publishing ethics as described in COPE Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors found at <https://publicationethics.org/core-practices>.

## Publication Expectations

*RITS* will be published electronically bi-annually. One issue will include the winning papers from the annual MSERA conference. The second issue will be at the discretion

of the editor and editorial board. A special interest or topic specific publication may be considered of value to the MSERA and broader research community. In the event of consideration of a special issues publication, the editor is expected to bring a proposal to the Board of MSERA for consideration, indicating why the topic would be of special interest to add this publication. Board approval is required.

## Application Procedures

Interested candidates are to submit an email cover letter addressed to the MSERA Board of Directors that includes the name(s) of the proposed editor(s) and any others who will be involved in the publication along with the agency/institutional/organization affiliation. CVs are to be attached. The cover letter is also to include whether those involved are members of MSERA and a description of the experience and expertise that would make the applicant a good editor(s) of *RITS*. Additionally, the cover letter is to include the level of institutional support to be committed, including release time for the editor(s) and other support information. In addition to the CVs, three references are to be included.

The agency, institution, or organization supporting the application must provide a letter(s) of support that reinforces the commitment noted in the cover letter.

All applications are strictly confidential and each will be reviewed based on merit without regard to the race, religion, nationality, sex, seniority, or institutional affiliation of the candidate.

The closing date for applications for this position is February 28, 2020. The email cover letter and attachments are to be sent to MSERA President Rachelle Miller at [rgmiller@uca.edu](mailto:rgmiller@uca.edu)

**References:**

Frels, Onwuegbuzie, & Slate. (2009). A historical and demographic account of 15 years and publications in *Research in the Schools*. Retrieved January 27, 2020, from [http://www.msera.org/docs/RITS\\_16\\_2\\_15years.pdf](http://www.msera.org/docs/RITS_16_2_15years.pdf)

Research in the Schools. (2009). Retrieved December 15, 2009, from <http://www.msera.org/rits.htm>

MSERA Operations Manual