

# VSTE Publications Update

## The New Look of VSTE Publications

**G**reetings to our members across the Commonwealth and beyond! We trust the start of 2004 has been fruitful and enriching for each of you. We would like to take a moment to inform our members about the changes to VSTE publications. Over the past year, a number of exciting developments have resulted from the continued growth of the Virginia Society for Technology in Education. Responding to the feedback we received through the VSTE Publications Reader Survey we conducted during Summer 2003, combined with the goals of the organization's leadership, VSTE has adjusted its approach to the Journal and added a new publication, which we call the VSTE Edge. In the last section we ask for your help and input, which is vital to our mission!

## VSTE Journal

Many of us on the VSTE Journal editorial committee have been or are classroom teachers. We are well aware of the need for articles to be first and foremost pragmatic, containing information that is useful for teachers, administrators, and staff development personnel. But pragmatism should never override the necessity of scholarship. Therefore, we are also convinced that articles appearing in the Journal must be well researched to give them a credibility that can only come from an adherence to what others have found.

For this reason, the editorial committee of the VSTE Journal decided in 2002 to increase the prominence of peer review. We instituted procedures and policies that would require articles appearing in the Journal to first pass muster with experts on the committee. This, we felt, would ensure the balance of scholarship and pragmatism. After all, we do not want to waste pages with material that is neither useful to educators nor neglects a connection to the wealth of information and research about educational technologies. If you have questions about the process, feel free to contact us.

The Journal will now be published two times per year, rather than three. We will have a Fall/Winter issue and a Spring/Summer issue. This particular issue is being published later than future issues will be (mid-November is our target date). The Spring/Summer version is planned for June. We feel that two issues per year will allow more time for the

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# Publications Update, continued

development of the type of quality articles we would like to see. The extra time also gives the peer review process more time to work.

The look of the Journal has changed slightly for this issue. We want to be as efficient as possible in our use of page space for the sake of saving the number of pages needed to print individual articles or entire issues. Readers might also notice that the archiving of articles on the VSTE website has also changed. Rather than only being able to access entire issues, readers will now be able to select individual articles to download.

## VSTE Edge

The Edge is a new publication that will be delivered directly to subscribers' e-mail addresses at least three times per year. Those subscribing to the Edge (it is free for all members, and membership is free too, so it is quite a bargain!) will receive a concisely formatted "letter" that contains descriptions and links pointing to useful electronic resources for the classroom, insightful articles, and "how-to" tips concerning educational technologies. Whereas Journal articles must include ties to previous research, information in the Edge is more anecdotal in nature.

The Edge is not peer reviewed, per se, but information published in it will be what we call "peer approved." Links, summaries, reviews, and articles must first be approved by at least one member of the Edge editorial committee, which is separate from the Journal's editorial committee.

Archives of the Edge will also appear in PDF format on the VSTE web site, even though the original version will be formatted for electronic mail. The first issue of the Edge is planned to appear around the VSTE Annual State Technology Conference.

## Your Help is Needed

So where do these articles and materials come from? They are written by people like you – educators who are committed to ensuring that their students get the best possible education through exposures to a number of unique, creative ideas and methods. The talented group of experienced educators on our two editorial committees is not enough to create a quality publication. We need your help.

For those of you interested in teacher-based research, or if you have an interest in a particular area of instructional technology research for teachers at any level (K-Higher Education), we invite you to submit articles to the VSTE Journal. Articles about technology in staff development or educational administration are also welcome. If you simply have a few resources to share, or if you simply want to write up a classroom experience or lesson plan, we welcome your submission to the VSTE Edge. If you are unsure of where an idea fits, please contact one of our two editors and we will be happy to help.

# Publications Update, continued

But perhaps you are also interested in getting more involved with VSTE publications? We are always interested in hearing from those who would like to get involved in the editorial process. You need not have vast publication or editorial experience, but you should have a desire to produce quality publications for use by your peers in Virginia and throughout the nation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to be a part of the publications committee.

So, whether you would like to contribute an article, idea, or volunteer to work with us, we look forward to hearing from you! Our contact information is found below.

Best regards,

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Coordinator of Electronic Publications

## Contact Information

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