

Masters Scholarly Review

PROJECT AIMS AND SCOPE:

The Learning Disabilities Worldwide (LDW®) Masters Scholarly Review (MSR) is a peer reviewed, Web-based journal. It is designed to showcase exemplary masters-level research related to the field of learning disabilities (LD). There are two primary goals for this project: (a) to increase recognition of high-quality scholarship among masters-level students and (b) to disseminate significant and meaningful findings that will help advance theory, research, and practice.

We anticipate the majority of submissions will derive from completed masters theses. However, other notable research and comprehensive reviews of the literature will be considered, provided the work was completed as part of a masters or early doctoral program. Papers co-authored with faculty members are acceptable, as long as the student is the first author.

Authors are encouraged to submit qualitative, quantitative, single subject, and mixed methods studies that reflect multi-disciplinary areas of inquiry, a variety of perspectives, and innovative practices. Examples of topics that are appropriate for MSR publication include (but are not limited to): assessment, effective classroom practices, identification and classification procedures, management techniques, self-regulation, disproportionality, underachievement, giftedness and LD, family dynamics and involvement, professional development programs, social, behavioral, and affective development, early intervention strategies, and transition programs. *Authors who have questions about whether a topic is appropriate for MSR should contact the editor, Dr. Tanya Santangelo at santangelo@rowan.edu.*

REVIEW PROCESS:

Manuscripts will be considered for publication based on the following criteria:

- 1) Timeliness and relevance of the topic;
- 2) Soundness of the theoretical framework;
- 3) Soundness and appropriateness of the methodology;
- 4) Importance and practical implications of findings and conclusions; and
- 5) Quality, clarity, and style of writing.

All manuscripts will be acknowledged upon receipt and read by the editor to determine if the overall quality appears commensurate with the MSR expectations. Approved papers will be blindly reviewed by at least two individuals with relevant topical and/or methodological expertise (i.e., members of the editorial board, well-respected faculty members, and emerging scholars). The editor will then use the reviews to determine whether the manuscript should be published as is, revised and re-submitted, or rejected.

Authors are strongly encouraged to review the following articles that outline quality indicators for research and evidence-based practices; relevant criteria will guide editorial decisions.

Brantlinger, E., Jimenez, R., Klinger, J., Pugach, M., & Richardson, V. (2005). Qualitative studies in special education. *Exceptional Children, 71*, 195-207.

Gersten, R., Fuchs, L. S., Compton, D., Coyne, M., Greenwood, C., & Innocenti, M. S. (2005). Quality indicators for group experimental and quasi-experimental research in special education. *Exceptional Children, 71*, 149-164.

Horner, R. H., Carr, E. G., Halle, J., McGee, G., Odom, S., & Wolery, M. (2005). The use of single-subject research to identify evidence-based practice in special education. *Exceptional Children*, 71, 165-179.

Odom, S. L., Branklinger, E., Gersten, R., Horner, R. D., Thompson, B., & Harris, K. R. (2005). Research in special education: Scientific methods and evidence-based practices. *Exceptional Children*, 71, 137-148.

Thompson, B., Diamond, K. E., McWilliam, R., Snyder, P., & Snyder, S. W. (2005). Evaluating the quality of evidence from correlational research for evidence-based practice. *Exceptional Children*, 71, 181-194.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION:

All manuscripts must be written in English, fully edited, and prepared according to the guidelines specified in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed., 2001) and the guidelines for *Electronic Reference Formats* which can be reviewed at <http://www.apastyle.org/electref.html>.

When preparing the manuscript, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Number pages consecutively;
- 2) Set all margins to 1 inch;
- 3) Use left justification and 12-point Times New Roman font; and
- 4) Double space all text and tables.

All artwork and scanned items (e.g., student work samples) must be at least 300dpi and saved as a TIFF or Word document.

Consistent with the goals of LDW®, manuscripts should reflect an understanding that a disability is only one element of an individual. Therefore, use phrases such as *students with LD*, or *students who are at risk* (rather than LD students, or special education students). The American Psychological Association's guidelines for removing bias in language can be reviewed at <http://www.apastyle.org/disabilities.html>. It is also professionally responsible to use the term *general education*, rather than regular education.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION:

To have a manuscript considered for MSR publication, electronically submit the following information to the editor, Dr. Tanya Santangelo, at **santangelo@rowan.edu**:

1.) A cover letter in Word (.doc) or Rich Text (.rtf) format that includes:

- a) The author's name, institutional affiliation, address, phone numbers, and email;
- b) A statement indicating that the paper has not been previously published, and is not being simultaneously submitted elsewhere;
- c) A statement indicating compliance with the American Psychological Association's ethical standards for research participants, if appropriate. (These can be reviewed at <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code2002.html#8>); and
- d) A biographical statement of 40-60 words that will be used if the manuscript is selected for publication.

2.) A manuscript in Word (.doc) or Rich Text (.rtf) format that includes:

- a) Title page with running head, but *not* any identifying information about the author (separate page, numbered 1);
- b) Abstract (containing a maximum of 180 words) and a list of up to five keywords or brief phrases (separate page, numbered 2);
- c) Text (start on separate page, numbered 3);
- d) Complete, accurate list of references (start on separate page);
- e) Tables (if used, start each on a separate page);
- f) Figure captions (if used, list together, starting on a separate page); and
- g) Figures (if used, place each on a separate page)

3.) If the manuscript is not co-authored by a professor, submit a letter (or e-mail) of support from a sponsoring professor that includes:

- a) The sponsoring professor's name, institutional affiliation, and contact information;
- b) The author's name and manuscript title;
- c) A statement verifying the research being submitted was completed in conjunction with a masters program; and
- d) A statement indicating the manuscript is appropriate for MSR because it represents exemplary scholarship.

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