

## **Scenario 1: Outsourcing post-acceptance editing**

### **First Session**

#### **Consider the following case history**

The Society for Ground Cover publishes a quarterly journal (*Pachysandra et al*) and a monthly newsletter for Members. There is also an 'occasional' book series with Editors drawn from the societies Membership. The Executive Director has a publishing background and for the past 5 years has insisted on the society arranging for post-acceptance editing of all the content published as part of the 'value add' the society offers to its authors and Members.

The process has been implemented by the Publications Manager who has been struggling recently to find appropriately qualified freelance copy editing and proof reading help to work on the three different sorts of publications which are aimed at distinct readerships, and are at different levels and published at different intervals.

At the recent SSP meeting the Publications Manager spent some time talking to providers of editorial services and she has started to explore the options that exist for sending all the societies content to one supplier post-acceptance and for this to be integrated into the print and online production processes.

In discussion with your group please answer the following points based on your and your group's combined experiences:

1. What information and questions must the Publications Manager acquire from each supplier in assessing the suitability of each group as the publishers selected provider for post-acceptance editing?
2. How much should the society expect to pay (on a per page basis) for the copy-editing of the journal content?
3. How much should the society expect to pay (on a per page basis) for proof-reading of the journal content?
4. What other considerations besides cost would enter into this decision?
5. Should the society develop a Request For Proposals before awarding the contract to complete this work?
6. How would you judge the success of this outsourced solution 12 months after it was implemented?