

International Conference The Future of Education 2nd Edition Florence, June 7-8, 20102

Enabling English teachers' expertise and voices to be visible through publishing

Melba L. Cárdenas B.
Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Bogotá campus
mlcardenasb@unal.edu.co



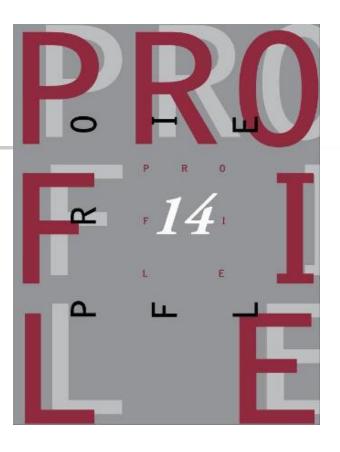
PROFILE stands for

PROFesores de

Inglés como

Lengua

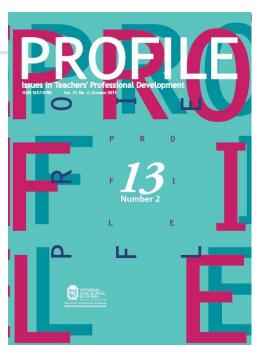
Extranjera



Issues in Teachers' Professional Development

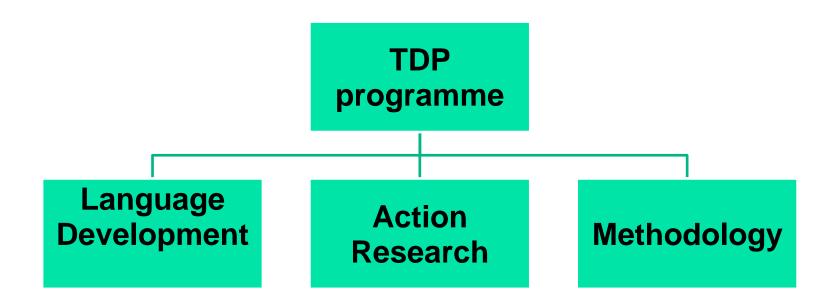


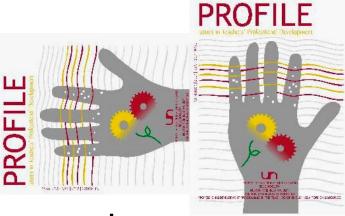
- Background & origins
- Sources of information
- Strategies used to get contributions
- Difficulties faced
- Evolution → Achievements
- Conclusions and challenges ahead.



Background & origins

Teacher development programme (TDP)





Mission

- Led by the PROFILE research group at Departamento de Lenguas Extranjeras Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá campus.
- Biannual publication: to disseminate innovations, reflections and research findings.
- It includes articles by school teachers, teachers of adults, teacher educators and pre-service teachers.



- The nature of research undertaken by in-service teachers in a TDP (Cárdenas, 2002-2003).
- Creation and evolution of teacher study groups in a TDP, with the purpose of developing action-research / innovation projects (Cárdenas & Nieto, 2006-2008).
- Experiences and challenges along the journey (Cárdenas, 2010-2011).



- Survey 1: school teachers (2003)
- Survey 2:65 authors (2010)
- Experiences as editor
- 17 editions
- ELT, TEd, policies

Authors

Colombia: 78%

Other countries: 22%

Different backgrounds

Papers

Research reports: 72%

Innovations: 22%

Reflections: 6%.



Strategies used to procure contributions

TPD

Action research and innovation

Criteria

- Writing completion
- Reviewers' role and awareness
- Constant support to novice authors

Visibility

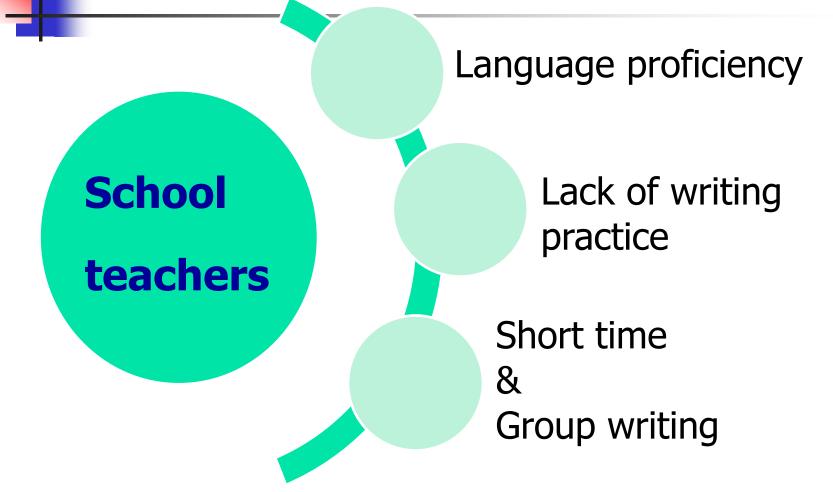
Spreading the word

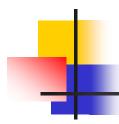
Criteria for article completion



- A style sheet
- A stable gaze
- Own and others' views
- Supporting with samples
- Feedback + communication
- Awareness of author's profiles.

Difficulties experienced by authors (1)





The assistance from the teacher in charge. For this kind of tasks is a must to have someone with expertise, so you can handle any situation and have a product with a reasonable quality (Luis).

It was not an easy task because we were a group of four teachers and it is difficult to agree on ideas and at the end one of us had to make decisions in the document... It was a little bit difficult to summarize the project in few pages because you think everything is important (Sandra).

Difficulties experienced by authors (2)

Following the format of an article

Demanding!

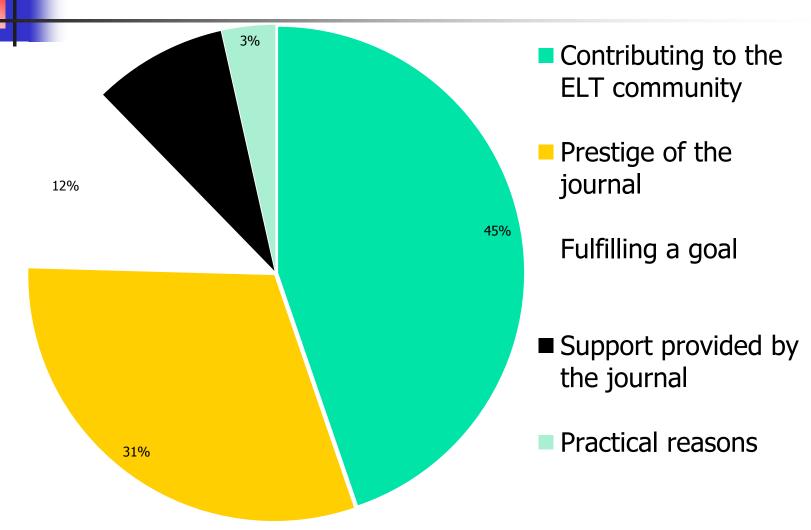
Following reviewers' requirements

Team writing



The process of publication was challenging and very demanding due to I am not an experienced writer. Submitting the first draft entailed a risk, like jumping into the pool for the first time; I could swim or sink. Although I was conscious of the weaknesses of my writing, I overcame my fears and sent it. Fortunately I made the right choice and I was engaged in the process to rewrite it. Thanks to your precise and rigorous guidance, publishing was possible (Ruth).

Main achievements: Reasons for publishing



Main achievements >



standards

- Other journals
- National guidellines
- Editorial team

Evaluation

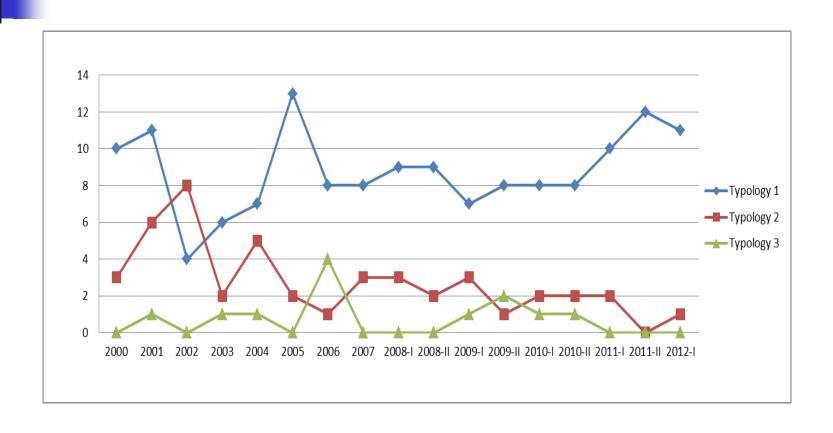
Own policies

- Sections
- Committees
- Preparation

- Criteria
- Support
- Visibility

Editorial processes

Types of articles





Visibility

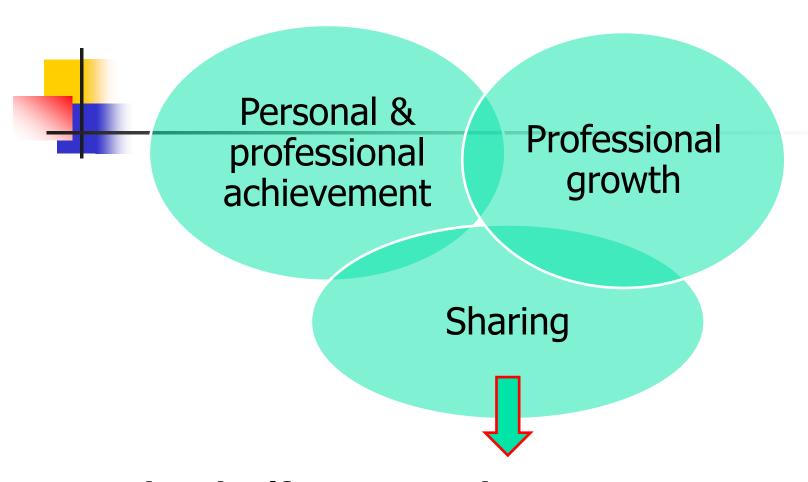
- Publindex-Colciencias, A2
- Ulrich's PeriodicalsDirectory
- Directory of Open Access Journals –DOAJ
- MLA International Bibliography
- Latindex

- Educational Research Abstracts online [ERA]
- Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts database [LLBA]
- SciELO
- Redalyc
- EBSCO



Conclusions

We are used to do certain things in our everyday classes and we sometimes think it is not worth sharing them in such a formal way. However something I have been learning through my experience with PROFILE, not only as an author, but as a student-teacher and as a tutor is that new knowledge does not grow up in genius brains but in real-life-people, informed and reflective perspectives (Myriam).



Teachers' self-esteem and empowerment:

- Inclusion of teachers' voices
- Construction of local knowledge and teacher community

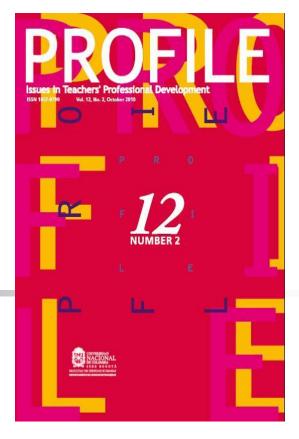


Challenges and implications



- Publishing tradition
- Applied research Vs. Regulations
 - Do professional publications reach teachers? Policy-makers?
- Positioning teachers' voices:
 - * Indexing systems
 - * Adding to the field.

Thanks!



mlcardenasb@unal.edu.co

References

- Benson, M. J. (2000). Writing an academic article: An editor writes... Forum English Teaching, 32(2), 33-35.
- Cárdenas B., M. L. (2003). Teacher researchers as writers: A way to sharing findings. Colombian Applied Linguistics Journal, 5, 49-64.
- Cárdenas B., M. L. (2004). Las investigaciones de los docentes de inglés en un programa de formación permanente. *ÍKALA* Revista de lenguaje y cultura, 9(15), 105-137.
- Cárdenas B., M. L., & Nieto C., M. C. (2010). El trabajo en red de docentes de inglés. Bogotá: Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

References

- Johnson, K. E., & Golombek, P. (2011). The transformative power of narrative in second language teacher education. *TESOL Quarterly*, 45, 486-509.
- Kincheloe, J. L. (2003). Teachers as researchers. Qualitative inquiry as a path to empowerment. London: Routledge Falmer.
- Noffke, S. E., & Somekh, B. (Eds.) (2009). The Sage handbook of educational action research. London: Sage.
- Rainey, I. (2005). EFL teachers' research and mainstream
 TESOL: Ships passing in the night? PROFILE Issues in Teachers'
 Professional Development, 6(1), 7-22.
- Rainey, I. (2011). Grassroots action research and the greater good. *PROFILE Issues in Teachers' Professional Development*, 13(1), 31-54.