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Editor's Message, Summer 1980

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POD QUARTERLY

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EDITORIAL

Editor's Message

Six issues of the *POD Quarterly* now adorn the bookshelves of those enlightened individuals and far-sighted librarians who have subscribed since its beginning. More people and institutions are subscribing every week, and I would like to call to the attention of new subscribers the fact that back issues are available at the single-copy price indicated on the inside of the front cover. Also, I receive many letters from well-meaning individuals who have circulated their copies among colleagues and found that the *Quarterly* seldom comes full circuit, presumably because of its intrinsic value. In addition to offering these people an opportunity to obtain missing copies as well, I further suggest that all readers consider asking their librarians to subscribe so that there will always be a copy available on campus. And do not forget to have them order back issues as well.

The tone of the *Quarterly* has been deliberately diverse up to this point in an effort to more adequately serve the multiformity of POD membership. There is a framework within which this diversity fits, however. The editorial policy of the *Quarterly* is to consider for publication as feature articles the following types of manuscripts:

Data based research reports that are both generalizable and directly related to POD-type activities;

Reviews of research pertinent to the needs of POD members;

Values essays which stand on their internal logic; and

Methodological studies applicable to the situations of POD practitioners.

Pertinent, applicable and related are three terms contained in that policy that all point to our overall goal—one of producing a journal that is first and foremost of relevance to the practitioner. With the exception of a few invited pieces, all manuscripts are blind-reviewed by at least two readers. Their explicit task is to determine both the quality of the manuscript and its applicability to the membership and readership. If either is lacking, the article is not published.

There is also an opportunity for more informal exchanges, such as announcing the availability of hand-outs, forms, practical tips and so forth, in the “Membership News and Information” section of the journal. Put in a context of use, results and research, such items may also be considered as articles. Mike Koffman’s article in the issue previous to this one and Joan North’s article contained herein provide fine models of how this can be accomplished.

As I look ahead to manuscripts currently being reviewed, as well as those which have been accepted but not yet published, I see a good mix of the types of articles mentioned above. I think an exciting mix. The point is, there is a long-term plan which is emerging, and one should not judge the *Quarterly* on the basis of one or two issues or a particular article. If what you would like to see has already been included in an issue, you’re welcome. If it has not, it most likely will be in a forthcoming one.

This all sounds like a *status quo* has been achieved, but those of you who have sojourned in the ranks of POD for any length of time know that would be impossible. Change will be the order of the day, as always, but it is helpful to know exactly the point from which that change might occur, if it is deemed appropriate.

Please register your views regarding the various features and directions of the *Quarterly* by sharing them with me. I will be attentive to your suggestions and will see that they receive an adequate hearing at the Editorial Board and Core Committee meetings this Fall, where, as always, the editorial policy of the *Quarterly* will be on the agenda.

G.F.N.