

society for editors and proofreaders

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upholding editorial excellence

International Translation Day 2014

NEW DIRECTIONS: EDITORIAL WORK

Diversifying into editing and proofreading

Sarah Patey, SfEP advanced member

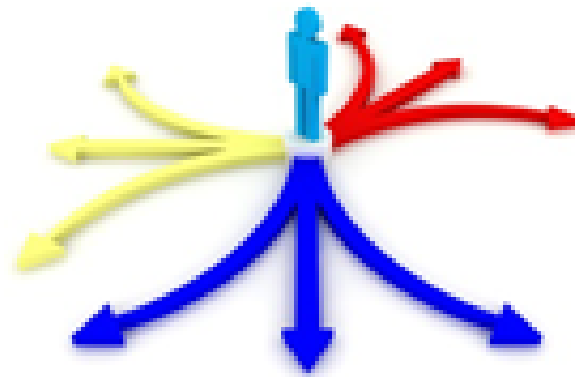
This presentation has been proofread by Natalie Murray, SfEP associate.

Where are you now?

- work flow?

- financial return?

- contacts?



Could editorial work be the way forward?

Skills needed for translation

- professionalism
- language skills
- analytical skills
- writing skills
- specialist knowledge
- general knowledge
- research skills
- attention to detail
- concentration
- empathy and tact
- flexibility
- adaptability

Skills needed for good editing

- professionalism
- language skills
- analytical skills
- writing skills
- specialist knowledge
- general knowledge
- research skills
- attention to detail
- concentration
- empathy and tact
- flexibility
- adaptability

MAGNA CARTA 1251

Editing happens in different contexts

- traditional publishing
- public sector
- commercial sector
- third sector (voluntary/charitable)

They have one thing in common...



However... each sector – and each client – will have their own way of doing things.

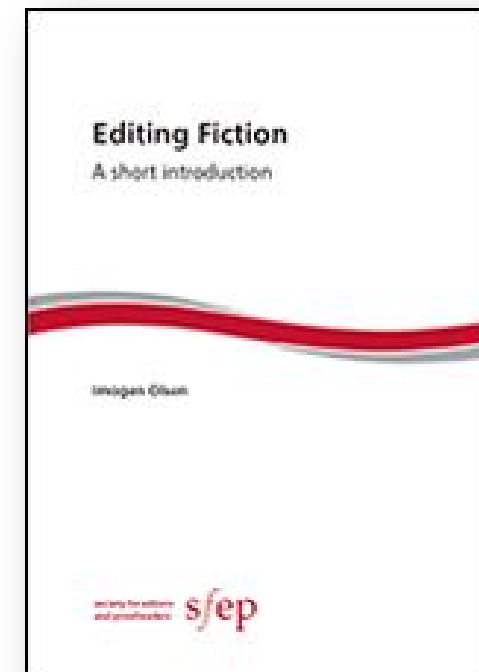
Editing fiction

In traditional publishing, this is...

- very difficult to break into
- often very poorly paid

The growth in self-publishing offers...

- huge opportunities (editing, consultancy)
- huge variation in quality
- huge need to be discerning!



For an excellent introduction to this, go to the [SfEP online shop](#) and order *Editing Fiction* by Imogen Olsen (£5).

Academic editing

For many, this is probably the most realistic option

- use – or develop – a subject specialism
- exploit contacts made through translation

Potential clients:

- academic journals
- publishers of the books you know
- publishers of the books you like
- non-native academics writing in English for these publishers

Editing non-native English

You can offer:

- subject knowledge
- knowing where the author is coming from
- expertise putting 'foreign' into English
- awareness of where specialist material is published
- native-speaker instinct

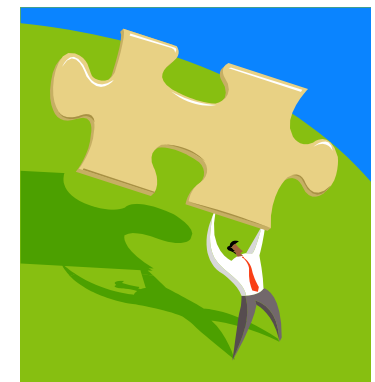
Do you have sound grammatical knowledge?

You need to be able to defend your decisions!



To work efficiently as an editor, you need to be...

- trained in proofreading/editing
 - [Society for Editors and Proofreaders](#)
 - [Publishing Training Centre](#)
- clear about your client's process
- methodical
- responsive
- helpful – if there's a problem...
...offer a solution



The Society for Editors and Proofreaders offers...

- clear professional development
- training from beginner to advanced
- support from colleagues
- help finding work
- networking opportunities
- discounts on training, products and services



For further information, visit www.sfep.org.uk

A snapshot of SfEP courses available September 2014. Further courses are in development.

- Home
- About the SfEP ▶
- Directory of Editorial Services**
- Membership ▶
- Local groups ▶
- Training** ▶
- Mentoring & tests ▶
- Qualifications ▶
- Best practice ▶
- Corporate subscribers ▶
- Conferences
- Events
- Collective wisdom ▶
- Magazine
- News
- FAQs ▶
- Links ▶
- Members' area
- SfEP forums
- SfEP online shop**
- Blog

Courses

Use this page to find out about all our courses. SfEP courses are now being rolled out online; an asterisk (*) by a course name means that it is available both as classroom-based and online.

Entry-level courses

- [Proofreading 1: Introduction*](#)
- [Proofreading 2: Progress*](#)
- [Proofreading 3: Mentoring](#)

- [Copy-editing 1: Introduction*](#)
- [Copy-editing 2: Progress*](#)
- [Copy-editing 3: Mentoring](#)

Other copy-editing and proofreading courses

- [Proofreading for accreditation](#)
- [Efficient copy-editing](#)
- [Brush up your copy-editing](#)
- [Professional copy-editing](#)
- [On-screen editing 1](#)
- [On-screen editing 2](#)
- [Introduction to web editorial skills](#)
- [Editing and proofreading music](#)

Other courses

- [Brush up your grammar*](#)
- [Getting work with non-publishers](#)
- [Going freelance and staying there](#)
- [Negotiating effectively](#)
- [Project management](#)
- [Training for trainers](#)

For more details, visit
www.sfep.org.uk

Translating non-fiction 1

Non-fiction translation is different from fiction

- beautiful or faithful?
- stick to the facts
- the cultural context

Non-fiction translation can use your ‘added value’

- specialist subject knowledge
- specialist interest knowledge

Translating non-fiction 2

Year	Poetry, fiction and drama	All translated poetry, fiction and drama	%	All publications	All translations	%
2000	12,109	529	4.36	77,694	1,721	3.85
2005	13,412	605	4.51	75,925	2,014	2.65
2008	16,402	753	4.59	90,761	2,207	2.43

Literature Across Frontiers, *Three percent? Publishing data and statistics on translated literature in the United Kingdom and Ireland* (Aberystwyth, 2012)

Translating non-fiction 3

Is the English-speaking world simply not interested in what other people are writing, or is it that

everyone wants to publish in English?

The good news might be that

- whether authors need their texts translated
- or their non-native English edited...

**you are the right people
for this market!**

How does one find editing work?

- get trained, maintain CPD
- if possible, identify and nurture a niche
- network, network, network
- find useful advice at www.sfep.org.uk
- buy two key SfEP guides
 - *Starting Out*
 - *Marketing Yourself*

Finding work takes focused hard work. The **Resources** section has links to a couple of blogs written by SfEP members where you can find very useful advice.

Where could you be?

- professionally qualified
- with a wider range of clients
- using your language skills in more varied ways



Good luck!

This presentation can be downloaded from
<http://le-mot-juste.co.uk/itd-2014/>

Resources online

Advice and information on setting up as a proofreader/editor

- www.sfep.org.uk
- www.louiseharnbyproofreader.com (useful blog and resources page)
- www.libroediting.com (useful blog)

Online directories (examples, not specific recommendations)

- www.findaproofreader.com
- www.freelance-proofreaders.co.uk

Example of translation service (journals)

- <http://goo.gl/dkQV6M> (Elsevier)

Examples of editing services for non-natives writing in English

- <http://goo.gl/IUuYPo> Emerald Group Publishing
- www.enago.com (need to be published to work as an editor here)
- <http://goo.gl/eeqpT7> (Elsevier)

Resources in print

How do you style that?

Judith Butcher, *Copy-editing* (4th edn, CUP, 2006) – the editorial bible.

The Chicago Manual of Style (16th edn, University of Chicago Press, 2010), also available online by subscription. Useful in the UK too – very comprehensive.

The Economist and *The Guardian* each publish a shorter and very useful style guide, much of which is also available online.

The editor's essential trio of OUP reference books

New Hart's Rules (2nd edn, OUP, 2014)

New Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors ('ODWE') (OUP, 2014)

New Oxford Spelling Dictionary (OUP, 2014)

Some personal favourites (other books are available)

Bill Bryson, *Troublesome Words* (Penguin, 1997)

Michael Swan, *Practical English Usage* (3rd edn, OUP, 2005)