

# Expanding Our Horizons

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*An Editorial Published in*

*TEACHING Exceptional Children Plus*

*Volume 1, Issue 1, Sept. 2004*

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SUGGESTED CITATION:

Peck, A. & Scarpati, S. (2004) "Expanding our horizons", *TEACHING Exceptional Children Plus*: 1(1), Article 6. Retrieved [date] from <http://escholarship.bc.edu/education/tecplus/vol1/iss1/6>

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*TEACHING Exceptional Children (TEC)* has always been about sharing among professionals - sharing resources, sharing teaching strategies, and sharing ideas. For over 35 years, authors have used its pages to encourage best practice among the community of special education practitioners.

Now, the internet has provided us with a fresh opportunity. Through *TEACHING Exceptional Children Plus (TECPlus)*, this new on-line only journal, we can publish more quickly and with less regard for page limitations. We've been able to open up (cyber)space for book reviews, technology reviews, case studies, and case stories. Better still, we can now include multimedia content (video and sound). The abstracts of articles appearing in the latest issue of *TEC* are also included so that search engines will more easily link to the contents of *TEC*.

*TECPlus* is a new format for publishing manuscripts, but the manuscripts still go through the same blind peer-review process as do manuscripts destined for the print journal *TEC*. Each feature article is assigned to at least 3 reviewers who are unaware of the author's name or affiliation, so that the article is judged

purely on merit. Cases stories, technology reviews and book reviews go through a similar process. In fact, all submissions to *TEC/TECPlus* are part of a common pool of manuscripts, and the publication venue decision is only made by the editors after the manuscript has been approved.

We encourage authors to consider preparing manuscripts in some of the new formats which are being accepted. Case studies are data-based descriptions of interventions with one or two students. Case stories are more stirring descriptions of accomplishment on the part of individuals with disabilities. Book reviews are about recent books of interest to special educators or related service providers. Technology reviews look at hardware or software which has value for the profession.

*TECPlus* is new in another important way. It is an open access journal, which means that it is freely available to special educators throughout the world. Anyone with an internet connection can access *TECPlus*. As editors, we feel that this is a timely and an important contribution to those who provide service to individuals with disabilities

everywhere. This is where we've "expanded our horizons" the furthest.

***Thanks!***

The process of creating *TECPlus* has been long and arduous. This was new ground for several parties, and we would be remiss not to mention at least some of those who have played key roles in creating this journal. At CEC, Richard Mainzer and Elizabeth Martinez have been especially visionary, helpful, and supportive. At the Boston College

Libraries, Bob Gerrity has contributed countless hours to the technical aspects of development, and Kathleen Carney, Brendan Rapple and Adeane Bregman were most helpful in developing both the concept of *TECPlus* and the components. Anne Stringer at bepress has made many thoughtful accommodations on the software side. Finally, our thanks go to our Advisory Board members (listed on the site) who supported us throughout the process.