



BEST OF TEASIG

Volume 2

IATEFL Testing, Evaluation and Assessment Special Interest Group

NEWSLETTERS 2003—2011



Edited by
Maggi Lussi Bell

BEST OF TEASIG 2 2003-2011

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This collection is dedicated to all IATEFL TEASIG members, both past and present, with special thanks to those who have contributed to this book and other TEASIG publications.

IATEFL TEASIG Committee 2020

The articles included in this collection were chosen by the TEASIG Committee members.

(Articles written by current or past committee members were not chosen by themselves.)



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Foreword

This volume is the second of its kind and again is for all TEASIG members as well as for the wider TEA community. It follows on from *Best of TEASIG Volume 1*, published in 2018. Language testing is still just as much of a hot topic as it was in the early days of TEASIG, so it is well worth making the insights from the entire period of TEASIG's existence accessible to all those interested in testing, evaluation and assessment. Assessment literacy is something which concerns teachers, test developers, curriculum planners, teacher trainers and, undoubtedly, all members of TEASIG.

This volume, like the first of its kind, includes some of the best articles to have been written for and published by TEASIG between the years 2003 and 2011. I was pleased and honoured to be asked by the Editor to write the foreword to *Best of TEASIG Volume 2*, which covers the period when I was TEASIG Coordinator.

I followed a line of extremely illustrious Coordinators when I was elected to the position in 2013, taking over officially at the TEASIG Conference in Sienna in November of that year. Before being elected to the post of TEASIG Coordinator by the TEASIG Committee of the time, I had been the initiator of the TEASIG Email Discussion List and its Moderator, and later TEASIG Newsletter Editor, two roles I enjoyed very much. The TEASIG Email Discussion List was abandoned after a while in favour of social media communication and a new position created for this.

The *TEASIG Newsletter* was renamed in 2019 as *Testing, Evaluation and Assessment Today*, to reflect exactly the same changes in communication with and between TEASIG members. News was being communicated less and less in printed form, and the new name was found to be more appropriate. The publication has gone from strength to strength with the current Editor of *Testing, Evaluation and Assessment Today* and these volumes of selected articles. Dave Allan said in his Foreword to *Best of TEASIG Volume 1* that "a lot of great new thinking was bubbling..." below the surface and this can also be seen in the articles chosen for this volume.

I became a Trustee of IATEFL in 2018 and took on the role of SIG Representative, representing all the 16 IATEFL SIGs, so stepped down as TEASIG Coordinator. I

was succeeded by Neil Bullock, Ceyda Mutlu and Mevhur Ergun Turkkan, who have continued to lead TEASIG onward and upward.

The articles chosen by the TEASIG Committee for *Best of TEASIG Volume 2* reflect the developments in the field and the hope is that they will continue to inspire those who read them. The topics covered are as fundamental today as they were when the articles were written, although much has changed – in testing, evaluation and assessment, and in the world we live in.

Although it can hardly be considered a positive development in any general way, the global pandemic of 2020 (and, no doubt, 2021) will have its effect on testing practices just as more favourable developments, like the Internet, did. I am convinced that something of value will come out of the pandemic, and that this will be reflected in testing practices and affect the way we see the main considerations of TEASIG in the years to come. I am convinced that these advances will be evident in the articles selected for the next volume of *Best of TEASIG*.

Judith Mader
IATEFL Trustee / SIG Representative
TEASIG Committee member and Coordinator (2005-2018)

December 2020



Editorial

Welcome to *Best of Testing, Evaluation and Assessment Volume 2*, which follows on from the first volume, published in January 2019, and spans the years 2003 to 2011. And what an exciting time for testing that was! There were certainly many changes and innovations in the air, and this collection of articles with its different perspectives and various themes is a worthwhile testimony to that.

Between them, the 28 articles address a number of issues that have influenced testing, evaluation and assessment practice, sparking interest among testers and teachers, and giving rise to analysis and debate. A quick glance through the Contents on page four will show the broad scope of these topics, which include oral presentations, portfolios, placement testing, authentic assessment, testing intercultural competence, the use of touch-screen technology, and cultural bias in testing, to name but a few. From my viewpoint, none of these issues can be 'ticked off' our list of enquiry and all are well worth revisiting in the light of testing practices today.

Sincere thanks go to everyone who took the time to gather their thoughts, examine their data, reflect on their experience, and share their ideas with the TEASIG community during those years, and not only to those whose articles have been included in this collection. As with *Best of Testing, Evaluation and Assessment Volume 1*, it was not possible to contact all the authors whose contributions had been selected for consideration by the committee. Nevertheless, the final 28 articles included in this volume are an illustrative sample of the *TEASIG Newsletters* and *Conference Selections* from 2003 to 2011. My thanks also go to the TEASIG Committee for their invaluable help in making this selection, not an easy task with a restriction on the number of articles that could be chosen and such a wealth of high-quality material in the TEASIG archives. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to IATEFL Head Office for their much-appreciated support.

Putting together this interesting collection of articles has been an enriching experience for me and an opportunity to reflect on the extent to which testing has changed over the past two decades as well as perceive issues that are as relevant to us today as when the articles pertaining to them were first published. It has also

highlighted the role of both TEASIG activities and publications in assisting and enabling its members to explore and develop their own testing practices and to disseminate their ideas to a wider audience.

Whether you choose to read the *Best of Testing, Evaluation and Assessment Volume 2* from cover to cover or to pick out the topics most relevant to your situation and current interests, I am sure it will serve not only as a reminder of what was happening in the testing, evaluation and assessment field from 2003 to 2011, but also provide ample food for thought and inspiration for the future.

Maggi Lussi Bell
IATEFL TEASIG Editor

