

## **Survey of Editors 2001**

Pamela Hewitt

The matter of rates is worthy of separate discussion. The most glaring aspect is the range of charges. Average hourly rates were just under \$50 (\$49), with costs for some specific services higher (project management at \$58 and document development at \$57), while others were lower (proofreading \$33 and indexing \$41). But these averages cover huge variations, ranging from \$15 to \$130 an hour for similar services. In other parts of the survey, respondents commented on the need to tackle the issue of appropriate charges at a national level. Some commented bitterly about undercutting of professionals' rates by 'hobbyists'.

While the editors reported that they charge virtually the same average amount as indexers for indexing (\$41 compared with \$40), indexer respondents charge an average of \$16 less per hour than editors when they undertake editing work. Given the significant overlap of services offered by editors and indexers, perhaps there is some scope for the professional societies to discuss together rates for editors who undertake indexing and vice versa.

*(Excerpt from 'Analysis of conference questionnaire (editors)' by Pamela Hewitt, reproduced with permission)*