

The publishing industry offers a broad range of roles, each contributing to the production and success of content. When dipping my toes into the role of editor working on *Nova*, a literacy journal, I enjoyed and admired devoting myself to the creation of a journal that will contain special pieces of work by young and passionate writers. The position of an editor is central to ensuring the quality of the content that reaches readers. In this reflection, I will explore the role of an editor within a publishing house, drawing on my experiences as an editor and manager for *Nova*. This reflection will analyse the responsibilities and skills required in this role, how they align with my personal aspirations, and how my time at *Nova* so far has shaped my understanding of the editorial process in a professional publishing environment.

An editor's role in a publishing house is consistent throughout the book's life cycle, encompassing a range of duties that ensure the final product is of the highest possible quality. Editors are responsible for managing content from manuscript to final publication, overseeing the different stages of the process, including reviewing submissions, making grammatical, punctuation and spelling corrections, offering creative advice, and ultimately making decisions on which content is ready for publication. In addition to content management, editors collaborate with other departments such as design and marketing to guarantee that the final product is cohesive and aligned with the publisher's goals.

As a manager at *Nova*, in the beginning I enjoyed having power. I liked that the other editors relied and appreciated my ideas for advertising the submissions and felt I had the beginning of term under control with the second manager, Ayla. Eventually, the heaviness of the role was too much to take on. Although having so much artistic control seems quite freeing, it is a lot of responsibility and is not to be underestimated. In addition to making editorial decisions, the team and I had to write the copy for *Nova's* website. This is one of the more challenging aspects of the job for me personally, as copy writing has never been a strength of mine. Although I never directly wrote any copy myself (apart from the joint effort creating the "illuminating new voices" slogan with my team), I enjoyed working as a team and I think we all shared a mutual respect from the very beginning.

At the heart of the editor's job is maintaining editorial standards. This includes ensuring consistency in tone, style, and structure, while also sticking to the publication's editorial guidelines and readers expectations. The book must blend with the other books from the publishing house and in *Nova's* case, the submitted piece must work for the journal's style. An editor's role involves shaping the voice and narrative of the publication, contributing to its editorial direction, and ensuring that it communicates effectively with its target audience.

My experience working as an editor for *Nova* magazine has given me a comprehensive understanding of the range of responsibilities that editors face. One of my core duties will be reviewing submitted stories and poems, making editorial decisions on which pieces will be featured. This will require a deep understanding of the journal's vision and readers, along with incredible focus and concentration. I've learnt it's very important to remember the magazine's ethos first and foremost, to help select and edit the pieces that reflect what we stand for. Doing this job also requires a great amount of kindness and empathy, for the rejected few that don't make the cut.

Another challenge I found as an editor was managing the various deadlines and schedules that came with producing a magazine. In the fast-paced environment of publishing, it was

essential to stay organized and prioritize tasks. I asked Micheal or Chris to collaborate with the production and design team to ensure that the content was delivered on time for layout and design. Effective time management and coordination are critical skills needed to be an editor, or just for working in a publishing house in general in whichever role.

In conclusion, the role of an editor in a publishing house is both rewarding and challenging, requiring a combination of technical skills, creativity, and attentiveness. My experience so far as an editor for *Nova* has provided me with helpful insights into the editorial process and has deepened my understanding of the publishing industry as a whole. I am excited to learn more on the job, and to use what research I've learnt about the thrilling profession that is publishing house editor.