

Job: Journal Administrator

What do you do?

I recently changed from doing research to publishing research. I now work for the journal Plant Pathology; proof-reading and editing cutting edge plant pathology research.

When you make a discovery, you have to let other people know: the traditional way for scientists is through writing articles for journals. Working in publishing is a great way to learn about the latest news!



What is your average day like?

People send me their discoveries, written as articles. I process these for 'peer review'. If the science is high quality and accepted by the Senior Editor, I help improve the English and the pictures, and check the proofs for typos and other errors. I have to use my skills in science and languages together. Being a freelancer, I also have to make sure I keep myself up-to-date with computer and publishing skills.

Dr Carol Jenner



CV

- Journal Administrator, Editorial Office for Plant Pathology.
- General Administrator, British Society for Plant Pathology Board.
- Senior Scientific Officer, Warwick Horticulture Research International.
- Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Wye College, University of London.
- PhD Plant Pathology, Wye College, University of London.
- MSc Applied Plant Sciences, University of London.
- BSc Microbiology, University of Leeds.



When did you become interested in plant pathology?

I enjoyed studying microbiology at university, but did not want a career in a hospital or water treatment. I spent my summers surveying plants on nature reserves, and found that plant pathology combined both interests.

I went on to research bacterial diseases of beans and peas, then viral diseases of brassicas, lettuce and even watercress. I investigated the genetics of the pathogen, and then of the plant.

Plant pathology is important because, a healthy environment and healthy food underpin everything.



Which part of your job do you most enjoy?

As plant pathologists work around the world, there is always someone in a different time zone with a question they want answered quickly. This makes it hard to define 'the end of the day'. Conversely, I can choose 'the start of the day' too and work around other activities (like more botanising!). Although I work alone, I email so many people that is does not feel lonely at all!