
Editors' Message

Clifford I. Voss (Executive Editor)

William E. Wilson (Managing Editor)

Andrew Skinner (IAH Secretary-General)

As the year 2000 ends, expectations arise for the new year and, for purists, the new decade-century-millennium. Thus, it seems appropriate to reflect on the history of *Hydrogeology Journal*, which itself is about one decade old. In this issue, we summarize the history of the journal and provide a complete index of all articles and authors published over the years. It is also a time of changeover, and Bill Wilson, Managing Editor, offers a farewell note as he prepares to step down from that position at the end of the year.

History of *Hydrogeology Journal*

The initial idea for an IAH journal came from Erik Romijn, who was Secretary-General of IAH from 1980 to 1989 and President from 1989 to 1993. Erik strongly held the view that the defining characteristic of successful and worthwhile society is to publish a respected scientific journal, and he worked hard to achieve this end. The person who came forward to turn that vision into reality, Professor Eugene Simpson (University of Arizona), was uniquely qualified, by personality and scientific standing, to do the job. The first substantive discussions about a journal took place at the International Geological Congress (IGC) in Washington in 1989, when Gene agreed to work with the Secretary-General, Andrew Skinner (1989 to present), to develop the concept and to be the founding Editor. Gene wrote a concept note for the new journal, which was discussed in IAH and with the Hydrogeology Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA), whose members were also considering publishing a new journal. Professor Jack Sharp (University of Texas) was involved in these discus-

sions, and when he and Gene spent some time together to produce the selected papers volume of the 1989 IGC, published by IAH, they worked further on the idea of a joint journal. Jack led the discussion in GSA, which formed the view that the GSA should be associated with the IAH journal rather than publish its own. Today, the GSA logo and Hydrogeology Division, affiliation appear on the 'Editors' page (A3) of each journal issue.

In the meantime, IAH had been publishing the IAH book series through Verlag Heinz Heise of Hannover, Germany, for about 10 years. A strong relationship had developed between the two organizations, based upon a partnership between Egon Groba, IAH Treasurer for 17 years between 1972 and 1989, and Christian Heise, President of the company. Egon sought a cost-effective means of making textual products of the IAH Commissions available to the IAH membership, and he found a ready response from a company keen to diversify its interests. This collaboration resulted in 21 volumes between 1984 and 1996. In recognition of his contribution to the work of the Association, IAH was pleased to make Christian Heise an honorary member of the Association in 1989, an honor also bestowed on Egon himself in 1995.

Andrew Skinner set up the business framework for the new journal with Heise, and in 1991, discussions took place in London between Andrew, Christian, and Gene. These activities led to the 1992 pilot issue of the new journal, *Applied Hydrogeology (AH)*, Volume 0. Gene developed the concept of a truly international journal, where contributions of quality and value from throughout the world would find their place. It would help to chart the development of hydrogeological science and practice and to assist in technology transfer, particularly to developing nations. Providing that submissions to the journal had high scientific merit, Gene was willing, with the help of co-editors and other colleagues, to try and overcome barriers of language and geography to get good ideas and worthwhile findings into good English and into print.

AH was initiated as a quarterly journal with four successful issues in 1992 by founding Editor Simpson. The journal then entered an uncertain period because of difficulties in managing the day-to-day contact between the Editor and Verlag Heise, and then Gene

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developed problems with his health. In 1993, *AH* was not published at all. Andrew visited Gene's home in Tucson, Arizona, in March 1993, where Gene decided that due his failing health, he would step down. At the Oslo IAH meeting in June 1993, Andrew organized a continuation of the journal, with vital support from new IAH President, Dr. John Moore, who acted as interim Editor for issue 2(1), and Dr. David Banks, who was Editor for issues 2(2) and 2(3) in 1994. Mr. Steven Steinkraus then became Heise's contact with IAH, and he was a strong friend and supporter of the new journal, providing much positive practical advice. Andrew and John organized a search for new editors, and Dr. Clifford I. Voss (U.S. Geological Survey) and Dr. William E. Wilson (retired- U.S. Geological Survey), began their terms in 1994, producing issue 2(4).

In order to position the journal more centrally in the scientific discipline of hydrogeology, the journal's name was changed at the beginning of 1995 [issue 3(1)] to *Hydrogeology Journal (HJ)*. This change reflected a desire on the part of the Editors and IAH to broaden the journal's scope to include not only practical applications of hydrogeology, but also current theoretical developments and laboratory analyses that show promise in extending practical understanding of hydrogeologic systems, as well as interdisciplinary studies at various spatial and time scales. There followed a period of increasing volume size and stature for the young journal, with regular publication of four issues each year by Verlag Heise through 1997.

As one result of this early success, in 1997, other companies expressed an interest in publishing *HJ* and in expanding its professional appeal. *HJ* needed association with a publisher with a more international scientific and technical focus. Although Verlag Heise was a major publisher in Germany and Europe for technical trade journals, scientific technical publications were not part of their core business. After an amicable parting with Verlag Heise, IAH arranged for Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, Germany, a major international publisher of scientific books and journals, to publish *HJ* quarterly, beginning in 1998.

Indeed this change led to increased status for the journal. In 1999, *HJ* began to appear 6 times per year. In 1999, *HJ* was accepted by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) for "Current Contents" indexing and scientific citation indexing (SCI). Springer-Verlag provided an Internet site for *HJ*, where articles are available for viewing and downloading, and the site received an increasing number of inquiries (hits), reaching more than 10,000 per month by the end of 1999. Recently, Springer implemented "Online First" publishing for *HJ*, which provides immediate citable electronic publication of full articles on the *HJ* site upon acceptance, as well as normal appearance of the article later in the paper journal. In 2000, *HJ*'s size reached 660 pages per year. Springer's business contact with IAH, Dr. Wolfgang Engel, whose strong interest in *HJ* led to Springer's acquisition of publish-

ing rights, is a great supporter of the journal and has done much to increase its scientific status. Another key link is Ms. Susanne Schweickert, Springer's production editor of *HJ*, who has helped to improve the professional appearance and accuracy of the journal.

This issue contains a complete cross-referenced index of all articles published in the journal from introductory Volume 0 to the present issue. The number of contributions, variety of subject matter, and worldwide participation represented in the index shows that *HJ* has become a major international forum for practical hydrogeology. No doubt a significant proportion of IAH members join primarily to receive *Hydrogeology Journal*, and, as Erik Romijn foresaw, the journal has become a key part of IAH's *raison d'être*.

Bill Wilson, Managing Editor, will end his term with this last issue of 2000, and starting in 2001, *HJ*'s new Managing Editor will be Mr. Robert Schneider (retired- U.S. Geological Survey).

Further Reading

Skinner A (1997) Editor's message. *Hydrogeol J* 5(4):2

Farewell and thanks! from Bill Wilson

After seven years as Managing Editor, I plan to step down from that position at the end of 2000. Because this is the last issue for which I will have formal involvement, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those associated with the journal and IAH for making this one of the most rewarding jobs I have had. Thanks go especially to two groups of hydrogeologists who made my task easier: (1) those authors who submitted stimulating, technically sound, and well-written manuscripts; and (2) those reviewers who provided thoughtful, constructive, and timely reviews. You are an editor's greatest blessing!

The most job satisfaction for me came from working with those authors who submitted technically acceptable manuscripts that for various reasons, such as English not being their native language, needed extensive editing. It was with keen pleasure that I helped transform these papers into clean, publishable copy. My reward has been the knowledge that we have provided an opportunity for many authors to publish in an international forum when that would have been otherwise infeasible. As I leave, I believe that the journal is on sound scientific footing, solidly in a niche with the elite international journals in our field, and I look forward to seeing further growth and recognition under the able leadership of the Executive Editor, Cliff Voss, and my successor, Bob Schneider.

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