Editorial

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Since my last editorial, the *Bulletin of Volcanology's* editorial board has changed significantly. Previous editors M.A. Clynné, Pierre Delmelle and Jeremy Phillips have completed their terms. At the same time, the number of editors has been increased to ensure that all have time to deal with their manuscripts, and we welcome the new board members listed below. I have also included a couple of words about key fields of expertise, which of course do not capture the breadth of their work.

- Servando de la Cruz-Reyna, (volcano observatory, eruptions, response)
- Guido Giordano (calderas, ignimbrite)
- Takao Ohminato (volcano geophysics)
- Matt R. Patrick (volcano observatory, lavas, eruptions)
- David W. Peate (origins of magmas, petrology of volcanic rocks)
- Pierre-Simon Ross (field volcanology, maar-diatremes)
- Jacopo Taddeucci (eruption dynamics, experimental volcanology)
- Paul Wallace (volatiles and petrology)
- Sara Fagents (planetary volcanism, quantitative volcanic processes)

The *Bulletin of Volcanology's* final “Special Issue”, which will actually be a Thematic Collection of papers that will be published as they are completed, will be completed in 2013. This journal is the official journal of International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI), and IAVCEI's Executive Committee decided in 2012 that edited groups of papers to be published with IAVCEI

would be more appropriately published in book format, particularly the *Special Publications of IAVCEI* series published by the Geological Society of London, and *Advances in Volcanology*, published by Springer.

At the end of last year, the *Bulletin of Volcanology* began using the editorial manager system for online submission and manuscript handling. The transition seems to have gone smoothly, and all new manuscript handling is now done through this online system.

Coupled with the move to an online system, the decision categories for the *Bulletin of Volcanology* were changed, with the “major revision” decision category replaced by the decision “reject—resubmission invited”. This change has a number of consequences, both positive and negative. Positive consequences are that papers are no longer held in stasis while awaiting substantial changes. Previously “major” revisions commonly took many months to accomplish, often with the counterintuitive result that authors then considered that their paper had not been handled quickly enough. A negative consequence of the change is that some authors have considered the “reject” (but with resubmission invited) decision to be unnecessarily harsh. I think that removal of the “major revision” category is good for the journal, but regret any trauma caused by the change. “Major revision” has always been reserved for changes likely to require additional review, and for authors, the practical effect of the change in language is negligible. For the journal, however, the bad word-of-mouth press associated with prolonged major revisions was considerable and, in my view, not fair.

The combination of changing to a system that has good auto-nagging functions for reviewers and editors, with discontinuance of the “major revision” category, is providing a clear and I think attractive pathway to publication. In the year ending 30 June 2012, there were 101 manuscripts accepted (Fig. 1). The median time to acceptance was 8 months; 20 % were accepted within 3 months, and 10 %

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Fig. 1 Each *bar* is the time to acceptance for a manuscript: 101 are plotted

within 2 months. At the other end of the spectrum, some legacy manuscripts were finally accepted, with 5 % of accepted manuscripts having spent more than 2 years in process.

From the Editorial Manager's report for 2012, average time to final decision is 98 days, or a bit more than 3 months, of which time, 39 days are with the authors and 54 with the reviewers. As of 12th of November, 147 manuscripts have entered the system, which went live in November 2011. Of those manuscripts, 48 have been accepted, 42 rejected (this includes those asked to resubmit after major changes), and 57 are still in process.

In 2013, the *Bulletin of Volcanology* is shifting to "continuous publication". There will no longer be an "online now" category; instead, processed manuscripts will appear online with their final bibliographic information, and whenever an issue's worth of papers accumulates online, a new print issue will be produced. In the lead-up to this change, papers in the "online now" queue have been brought to print with a number of enlarged issues of the *Bulletin of Volcanology*, which you have probably noticed bulking up your bookshelf or

in the form of long lists of papers in the issue alerts. There will be a month or so at the end of this year when accepted papers will not be put online so that the queue is empty on 1 January 2013. At that time, they will go online, and the first issue will probably be filled and go to print soon afterward.

From 2014, the *Bulletin of Volcanology* will no longer be distributed in print. The change to online-only publication will put the *Bulletin of Volcanology* in the middle range of journals making this change. From my own teaching experience, it is clear that few students engage with printed publications, and now that many journals have digitised their back issues, it is has become rare even for research-minded faculty to be found leafing through journal issues pulled off library shelves.

Best wishes for a pleasant and productive 2013.

James White
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Bulletin of Volcanology