Dear Reader

Bob Kleinmann¹

Published online: 4 August 2020
© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2020

Dear Reader,

With all of the troubling news nowadays, it is great to be able to report nothing but good news in this column. First of all—it took a lot of effort, but the Special Issue on Advances in Pit Lake Science is presented for your pleasure. Special thanks to Melanie Blanchette and Mark Lund who recruited most of the papers for this issue and served as Guest Editors, and to all of the authors and reviewers who worked hard to make it a success. The Guest Editors have provided a brief introduction for it, which follows this column.

And, as all of you who are members of the International Mine Water Association already know (and if you are reading this and not already a member, please remedy that as soon as possible), our journal's impact factor has risen again to 3.184, from 2.145 last year, which was itself a fantastic increase from our previous rating of 1.521. See the graph below, showing our progress (Fig. 1). To put this in perspective, it is extremely unusual for a small journal such as ours to have an impact factor over one, let alone over two. Our journal now ranks in the top 20% of the world's water resource journals in Clarivate Analytics' science citation index! Although not particularly

important to us mine water practioners, it is extremely important to the academics and researchers, whose work is judged by the impact factor of the journals in which they are published. Considering that this journal is completely staffed by volunteers, I believe we can all be very proud. We thank all of you who have read and cited papers published in this journal, as well as our authors, and our excellent group of reviewers, editors, and abstract translators. Included in this list are Detlef Bringemeier and James Pope, who have recently stepped down from being associate editors—we thank them both for their many years of service. Not to worry! We have already recruited two new associate editors, and I will name them in about 6 months, once they have had a chance to learn the role and judge if they like it or not.

Our higher citation index rating means, of course, that we will continue to receive more manuscript submissions. However, we expect that many of them will be too academic for our journal to publish, and some will have little to do with mine water at all. We try to reject such papers immediately, without sending them out for review, as we want our journal to focus on research that has a reasonable likelihood of being useful (or at least interesting) to the practioners as well as the researchers among us. And as I have said many times before, we ask the practioners who are reading this to send us case studies that illustrate something novel or that describe the implementation of a new technology, so that the rest of this community can learn from your experiences (positive or negative). Such papers may not be highly cited, but they are key components of our work and generally, are of more practical benefit than most of the other papers we publish. Submit them as Technical Communications or as IMWA Insights and let us know if you want the manuscript to be peer reviewed or, alternatively, if you want me to be the sole reviewer.

I do not know whether next year's citation index rating will be as high as this year's, which is already higher than I ever thought possible. But even if it isn't, this rarified air feels great. And we believe that this special issue, and the two more that are already half done (one on mine water research in China and one on tailings dams failures), bode well for continued high impact factor ratings in the future.

✉ Bob Kleinmann
editor@MWEN.info

¹ HDR Inc, Pittsburgh, USA

3.184

2019 Journal Impact Factor

Fig. 1 2019 Journal impact factor & percentile rank in category for mine water and the environment

Moving on to another joyful topic, next year we will be celebrating a milestone: it will be our journal's 40th volume. I know, if you are a stickler, that it changed names (in 1996), as it used to be titled the International Journal of Mine Water, when it was self-published and distributed by IMWA. Back in those days, it was published somewhat sporadically, whenever the editors (initially, Rafael Fernandez-Rubio and Raghu Singh) had enough papers to fill an issue. Nonetheless, it is the same journal, though it has grown considerably in all respects. And scanned copies of all of those old papers are still accessible on-line to all of you who are members of IMWA. I know that most of us tend to go on-line just to read the new papers that have not yet appeared in print, but even if you are old enough, like me, to have some of those old issues on your shelf, I recommend the convenience of reading them on-line (at: <https://www.imwa.info/content.html>).

We are working with Springer to put a different mine water picture on each of next year's issues, and the pictures that will be used will come from those submitted by all of you. They will have to be good quality, high resolution (at least 3500 pixels) images of mine water, and copyright free, so that you can transfer the copyright to IMWA, MWEN, and Springer Nature to be used for the journal and the IMWA web site. Please send your photos to IMWA's president, Christian Wolkersdorfer, at: christian@wolkersdorfer.info, along with a paragraph or two describing the picture and, if pertinent, its history. As he receives them, he will post them on the IMWA website, and we will ask our active members of IMWA to vote on the eight best, probably in late October.

We are also going to be recruiting short papers from those of you who have been active in the mine water field on mine water topics of your choice to be printed in 2021 to mark how

far we have come during the past 40 years, and if appropriate, where research should be focused during the next decade. Most of these will be classified as IMWA Insights, and so can be fairly informal. We hope you will provide some background and perspective, and explain how the technology or research field has evolved, bringing the younger readers of this journal up-to-date. I plan to prepare such a piece on passive treatment of mine water, and encourage any of you who have been active in this mine water research area for at least the last 20 years to e-mail me and join me in joint authorship. For those of you who have been active in other aspects of mine water for at least the last 20 years, please e-mail me with your suggested topics and I will try to unite others with similar ideas, rather than have multiple contributions on the same topic. Note though that you have to be a member of IMWA to contribute an IMWA Insight. In general, we do not require our authors to join IMWA, though we strongly encourage it, but authorship of IMWA Insights is indeed limited to IMWA members. If you are not a member (which includes a personal subscription to this journal), please consider joining, as those dues are what makes publication of this journal possible. Simply go to: <https://www.imwa.info/imwa-membership.html> for all of the information needed.

Best Regards,

Bob Kleinmann, PhD; Editor-in-Chief
editor@MWEN.info