Introducing a New Article Type “Data Article” into IGGE: An Overview

Sanjay Kumar Shukla¹

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The *International Journal of Geosynthetics and Ground Engineering* (IGGE) has been publishing technical articles of the following types:

- Original papers
- State-of-the-art/practice papers
- Technical notes
- Articles of professional interest
- Case reports/case studies

The details of these article types are well explained in the submission guidelines at the IGGE homepage:

<https://www.springer.com/journal/40891>

The researchers, scientists and practising engineers often generate useful research data through laboratory-based research, field tests, field performance monitoring of structures/projects, site visits, research surveys, etc. in the areas of geosynthetics and ground engineering for the development of subject knowledge and/or their direct field applications. Despite the significant importance, all the available data often cannot be presented in the form of Electronic Supplementary Materials (ESM) as part of the articles as conventionally published in the research journals. Hence, they keep lying in reports and other similar documents without their easy access at the national and international levels. In some cases, datasets are posted on official data repositories following funding requirements, but in practice, valuable datasets are sometimes very difficult to be allocated by the relevant scientific community. IGGE is now considering the publication of data papers, and welcomes their submission for possible publication based on the journal's peer-review process via the journal's online editorial manager (EM) system at:

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/igge/default.aspx>

While submitting, the option of ‘Data article’ may be selected from the menu as the type of paper. This option is expected to be made available in the online EM system soon.

The emphasis in the data article should be mainly or entirely on describing OPEN and FAIR data related to the research projects of significant practical importance, but also allowing the inclusion of further analyses and limited conclusions, including figures and graphs. The data article should mainly describe data, methods, and instrumentation as applicable to acquire them scientifically along with data validation and potential reuse by the readers of IGGE. The data article should not be aimed at presenting the research investigation and narrative description of research projects, as reported in conventional research articles. An interpretation of the data, which is addressed by other paper categories, should not be included in the data article. It is mandatory to share all the raw data and metadata in the form of data files and/or datasets generated by the author(s) via a publicly accessible data repository if they cannot be included in the article. The authors can make use of any common data repository in the subject-specific field. Springer Nature has Figshare that could be used but other data repositories are also an option. The article must include the data archive link in the data article.

I do hope that the readers of IGGE will welcome this new article type option and may find the data articles useful for transforming, organizing, and modelling the data as reported in these articles to draw specific conclusions and identify patterns as per their specific requirements and applications. The data can also be used for validating any new mathematical/numerical models as developed for the related field project/application.

Sanjay Kumar Shukla
Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Geosynthetics and Ground Engineering.

✉ Sanjay Kumar Shukla
s.shukla@ecu.edu.au; sanjaykshukla1@gmail.com

¹ School of Engineering, Edith Cowan University, 270
Joondalup Drive, Joondalup, Perth, WA 6027, Australia

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