Editorials – The Publisher-Editor is Speaking

The New JSS-Framework: Subject Areas and Editors, The ESS and Other News

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1065/jss2006.06.161>

JSS – The Idea of the Founding Editors. When this journal was launched in 2001, it was the intent of the Founding Editors¹ and the Publisher-Editor to provide a joint forum for soil and sediment scientists, managers and practitioners, due to the reason that soils and sediments have a common origin and their functions do not differ greatly from each other. Both compartments are intensively interlinked and thus soil and sediment scientists and managers should co-operate in order to solve the many problems which exist at the interface of both media. That was the intent which was supported by the new initiative of SedNet (Demand-driven, European Sediment Research Network). The subsequent five years of publication, however, showed that this joint forum was gratefully accepted and acknowledged, though, without bringing the two compartments actually together – not in the journal and not in the area of global collaboration. The representatives of both compartments published in JSS separately from each other, and the interdisciplinary papers were rare.

Do we really need a journal of Soils AND Sediments? Then we raised the question "Do we really need a journal of Soils AND Sediments?" [1–2], and the response was amazingly positive, if not overwhelming. On this occasion we, the Founding Editors and the Publisher-Editor, realized that our approach was on a good way but would have to be communicated in a more offensive manner. This was the reason that we decided to link the compartments of SOILs and SEDIMENTs by an interdisciplinary or intercompartmental area (INTERCOMP). This bridging and melting element existed from the beginning of this journal, but, obviously has not been transported to the community sufficiently clear.

TREEAS. The Founding Editors paved the way to a new editorial structure, the consequence of the ThREe-Area Structure (TREEAS), by stepping back from the front for each a new Editor-in-Chief of the SOILs, INTERCOMP and SEDIMENTs area. On this occasion, it is my sincere wish to warmly thank the Founding Editors for their companionship through five difficult years. Without them, this journal would not exist or would have stopped to exist. Jointly with me, the three new Editors-in-Chief, Ulrich Förstner (SEDIMENTs), Wim Salomons (INTERCOMP) and Zhihong Xu (SOILs) are grateful that they continue being associated with JSS.

The Successors of the JSS heritage. The new Editors-in-Chief (CHIEFs), the successors of the JSS heritage, are not really 'new'. Ulrich Förstner was Member of the JSS-Editorial Board from the beginning, Wim Salomons published in JSS, and Zhihong Xu has become familiar with the journal via the ESPR of which he belongs to the Subject Editors. Here again, I would like to express my thanks, thanks for their courage and power and conviction that the approach of the journal is worthwhile. They have taken the challenge and the responsibility to convey the extended and sharpened mission of the journal and identified each a **Subject-Area Framework** and corresponding **Subject Editors/Associate Subject Editors** or **Advisors** (see the front and back inside

cover). Most of the members of the former JSS-Editorial Board belong to these three staffs, and it is my and the CHIEFs pleasure to express our appreciation for their continued cooperation.

Subject Editors/Associate Subject Editors. The difference between the former editorial board and the new structure lies in the increased responsibility of the individual members.

The **Subject Editors** are responsible for the development of specific areas. This implies the following activities

- 1) to solicit papers (research and reviews),
- 2) to monitor trends and developments in this area (scientific, political) and to verify that these activities are reflected in the journal (by News and Views, reports, commentaries, opinion papers, etc.),
- 3) to create new contacts,
- 4) to advise the Editor-in-Chief and the Publisher-Editor,
- 5) to constructively critique issues and actions that come to the attention of the journal.

The **Associate Subject Editors** or **Advisors** assist the **Subject Editors**, in evaluating abstracts, functioning in the peer-review process, and identifying research areas where JSS should make concentrated efforts to solicit research manuscripts. **All these actions are processed via the ESS (Electronic Submission System) in a manner that is very easy to handle.**

The ESS (Electronic Submission System). Since January 2006, the journal has instituted the Electronic Submission System (ESS) that ensures the manuscripts are processed in a timely manner. Over the past five months we have been accepting abstracts and manuscripts through the ESS, and although we have identified areas where we need to improve the system, it is working successfully for us. Key to making the process work is the identification of the appropriate scientific expertise of ESS-Subject Editors and Referees. The ESS-Subject Editor, disclosed to the Author, guides the paper through the review process. The subsequent article, pp. 68–74, describes the work flow of the ESS from the viewpoint of the Author, the ESS-Subject Editor and the Referee.

Distribution Agreement with Springer-Verlag. Since 2005 we have entered a Distribution Agreement with Springer Verlag which implies the circulation of JSS to Consortias outside Germany. In this way we have generated an additional number of 1624 copies (May 2006) that are distributed worldwide.

Impact Factor 2007. Since 2005, JSS has been listed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (Web of Science) and in Current Contents. As it takes three years to calculate an Impact Factor, the first can be generated in 2007, according to the following calculation: **Cites in 2007 to articles published in: 2006 and 2005, divided by the number of articles published in: 2006 and 2005.**

References

- [1] Apitz SE (2005): Editorial: Management, Policy and Science – Do We Need a Journal of Soils AND Sediments? JSS – J Soils & Sediments 5 (3) 129–133
- [2] Blum WEH (2005): Editorial: A Comment from the Soil-science Perspective to the Editorial 'New and recent developments in soil and sediment Management, Policy and Science' by Sabine E. Apitz. JSS – J Soils & Sediments 5 (4) 197–200

¹ **Editors-in-Chief (2001–2005):** De Deckere, Eric; Knacker, Thomas; Kördel, Werner; Peijnenburg, Willie; **Coeditors (2001–2005):** Blum, Winfried EH; Guerin, Turlough; Matschullat, Jörg