

## Editorial

Five years have passed since the International Journal of Speleology made its metamorphosis. These years have seen several great changes: from the small format to the bigger one; from black and white to colour covers; from paper copies to online-first articles. These transformations have lifted the International Journal of Speleology back up to true international level, with an international editorial staff, international editorial board and an international readership, making it one of the most important scientific cave and karst journals currently available.

The Journal is now cited in the major scientific databases, has received an Impact Factor of 0.900 in JCR 2009, and the fact that it is open access makes it popular both with readers and with authors.

This year another important step has been taken. Ownership of the Journal has passed from the Società Speleologica Italiana to the Union Internationale de Spéléologie. Many thanks are due to the Italian cave community for having managed the Journal for almost 30 years. Now we can say that the IJS is “really” the official journal of the UIS!

But there has been another, probably even more important, change. After having been printed in Italy for 30 years, the IJS is now being handled and printed at Tampa (FL, USA) by the University of South Florida Libraries. The IJS is now hosted at the Berkeley Electronic Press platform (University of California, Berkeley), which offers online submission procedures and online publication. This service and the printing of paper copies for the next two years will be funded and managed by the USF Libraries as part of the Karst Information Portal initiative. Besides IJS articles being accessible online at the new website at Berkeley, the old [www.ijs.speleo.it](http://www.ijs.speleo.it) website will continue working in the future, giving the Journal a broader visibility.

From now on papers should be submitted online at <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/ijs/>. Guidelines for preparation of articles are published at the end of this issue and are also available online.

Another change is that subscriptions and postal handling will now be managed by the U.S. National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) on behalf of the UIS. Thus, subscription fees and payments for back issues will now be handled by NCKRI, who will then transfer the funds to UIS on an annual basis.

Many changes indeed, but we believe that they will all benefit the Journal, the readership and the authors.

And we hope that you all agree.

Best wishes

Jo De Waele