

Editorial

My previous Editorial was published in the January 2011 Issue 40(1), one and a half years ago. That was the first Issue handled by the University of South Florida and printed in the United States. In that year we published two issues containing 20 papers. The July Issue, a special dealing with Cave Minerals, was guest-edited by Bogdan P. Onac and Paolo Forti, and comprised 12 articles. The guest editors did a wonderful job.

During 2011 we transferred paper submission and manuscript handling entirely to the Scholar Commons website hosted by USF. That was a big step that enabled a speeding-up of both the reviewing and production processes.

We are trying to provide an unparalleled service to the authors and to our readership. Currently submitted articles are processed in less than 3 months on average, with high-quality peer reviews and swift typesetting and correcting. This allows rapid publication of “online first” articles, increasing their visibility and accessibility. These services are greatly appreciated, both by authors and by readers.

In June 2011 we received an Impact Factor of 2.057 (JCR 2010), doubling the IF of the previous year (0.900 in JCR 2009). Only a few days ago our high impact on the scientific community was confirmed, with an IF of 2.000 (JCR 2011).

This high Impact Factor has undoubtedly boosted the online submission of manuscripts. The first issue of 2012 contained 12 articles, whereas this second one contains 19 articles. Several more manuscripts are currently being processed. Initially this steadily increasing number of articles will allow us to make our Impact Factor become more stable, but it will also enable the publication of three issues per year, beginning in 2013: January, May, and September.

Next year there will be another major change. This Issue is the last to be printed on paper. Many international journals are moving completely to online publication, and the IJS is one of these. The increasing number of articles being submitted and accepted makes printing more costly, and we believe the time has come to adopt more-ecological and sustainable practices.

We are considering the possibility of having issues printed on demand (POD) for some of the world’s major libraries, but also for any readers who still prefer paper. Such services will have to be paid for, of course. More information on this option will be posted in our websites.

Next year covers from all over the world will meet at Brno in the Czech Republic. During the meeting I will be handing over the IJS mantle of Editor-in-Chief to Bogdan P. Onac. I will continue to work for the IJS as an Associate Editor for a while, but the majority of the work will be carried out by Bogdan.

I am confident that Bogdan will handle the IJS Editorial role excellently, and I personally wish him all the best with this new and “time-consuming” task.

Jo De Waele