

SEDIMENTOLOGY

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SEDIMENTOLOGY

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Peter Swart
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Steve Rice
TBA



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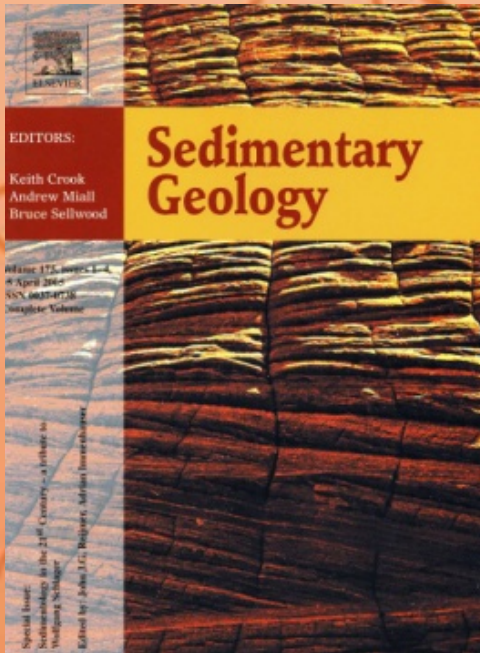
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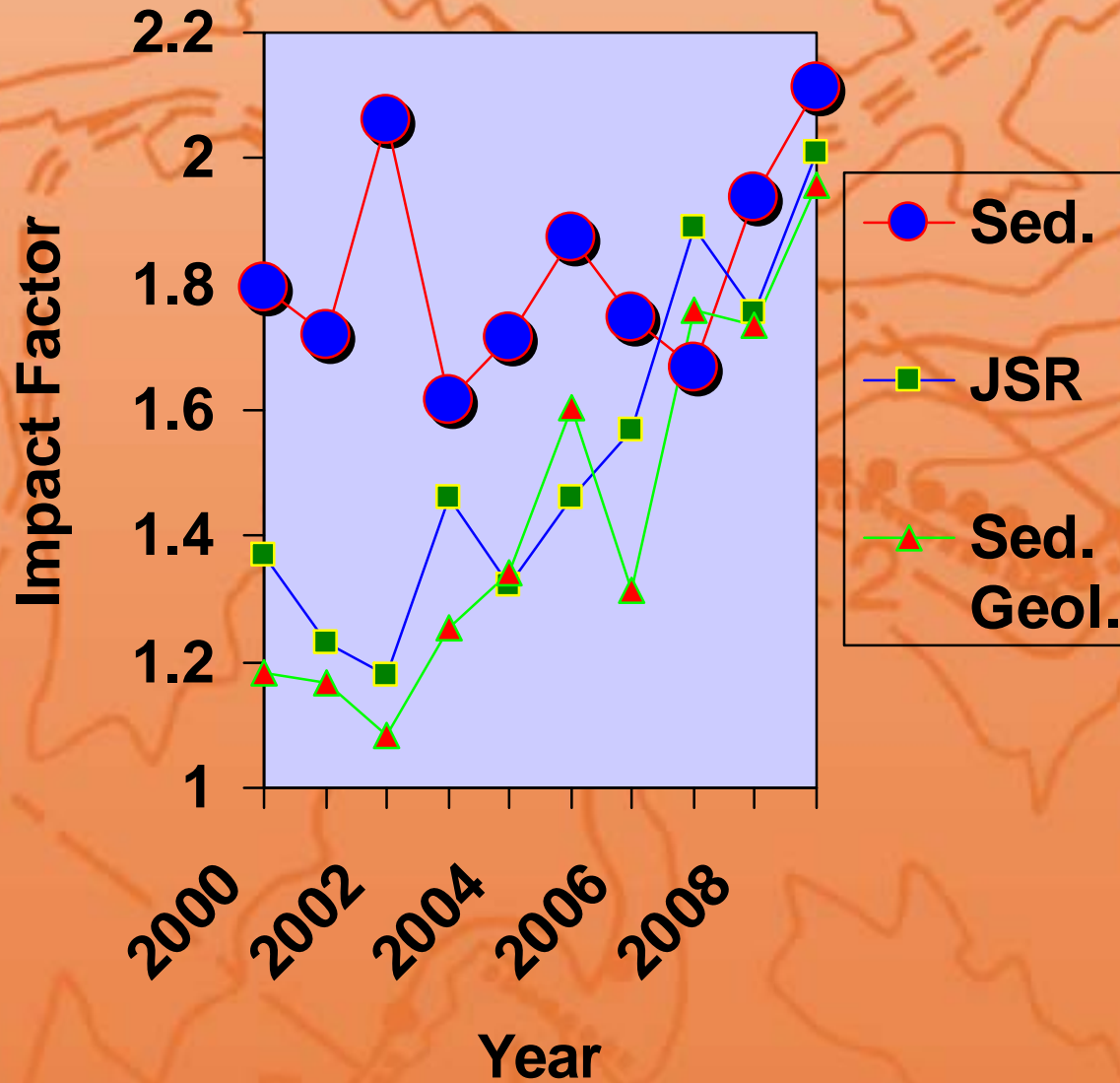
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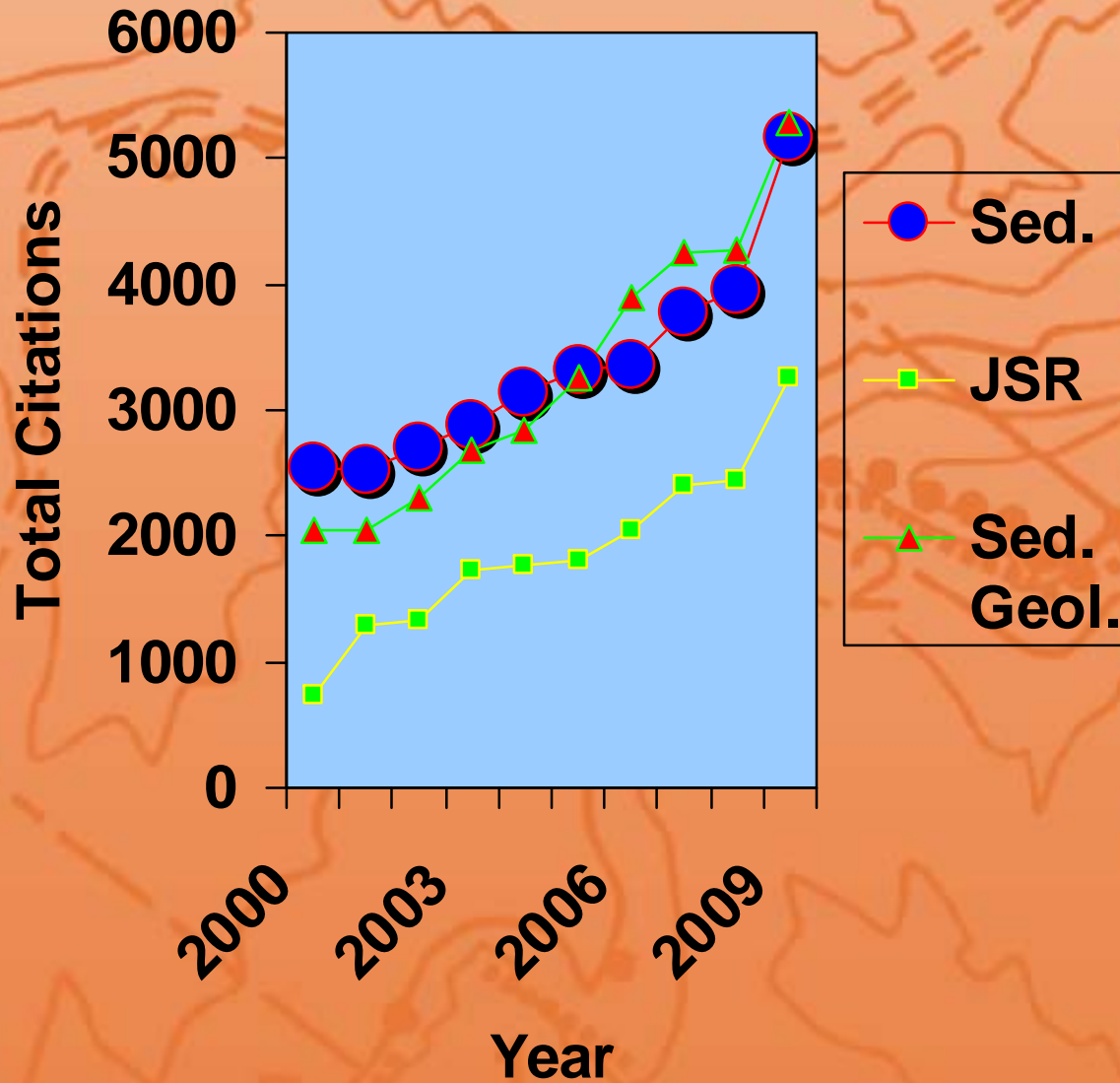
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Why Publish in Sedimentology?

- ***Impact factor is the highest of Sed. Journals***
- ***Distributed to over 3,500 universities and research laboratories***
- ***Yearly special Issues***
- ***Online submission and tracking process via Manuscript Central™***
- ***Online Early publication***
- ***Colour figures at no charge***
- ***Unlimited article size***
- ***Articles can appear as open access***
- ***First Decision down to 60 days***



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SEDIMENTOLOGY

What makes a good Sedimentology paper?

- **Novel, high-quality science**
- **High impact**
- **Long half-life**
- **Stand-alone**
- **Data-rich**
- **Generic (global relevance) rather than regional**



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Manuscript Layout I

- **Abstract**
 - *Stand-alone*
 - *< 300 words*
 - *Cover the problem, significance, results, key conclusions*
- **Introduction**
 - *Work from general to specific*
 - *Illustrate significance of study*
 - *Provide balanced review of previous work*
 - *End with clear statement of aims of study*
- **Framework**
 - *Include regional stratigraphic diagram*
 - *Make sure all locations referenced are on a map (anyone should be able to find location)*



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Manuscript Layout II

- **Methods and materials**
 - *Keep description of methods brief*
 - *State where material is archived*
 - *Specify equipment/laboratory used*
- **Results**
 - *Describe but do not interpret*
 - *Tabulate where possible e.g. facies*
 - *Use web-based Supplementary Publication for extensive data tables*



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Manuscript Layout III

- **Discussion**
 - *Consider wider significance of results*
 - *Relate to other work*
- **Conclusions**
 - *Not a summary or an abstract*
 - *List key outcomes*
- **Acknowledgments**
 - *Keep brief & professional*



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FIGURES

- *Text size >8 pt, non-serif*
- *Be careful with use of tones, greyscales, 3D*
All figures can be colour (no charge)
- *Avoid 'fussy' figures – keep style consistent*
- *Check spelling conforms to that in main text.*
We can usually fix small problems in text but not in figures!
- *Use caption/labels to highlight features of interest – keep captions concise*
- *Use capital letters to identify parts of a figure e.g. Fig. 2A*
- *Scale and orientation*



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House Rules or Style

- *Passive voice – avoid ‘I’, ‘we’, our etc.*
- *No references in abstract*
- *No pers. comm.*
- *European rather than American English e.g. colour rather than color*
- *Dolomitisation (English)*
- *Dolomitization (US)*
- *Use correct journal abbreviations*
- *Hyphenation – sea level and sea-level change*
- *Check References!*
- *Reference only papers published or in peer review journals (or in press)*



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A Word on References

- ***Cite the original References, not the most recent***
- ***Avoid e.g., if it is not important enough to look up the correct reference then leave it out***
- ***Do not over cite yourself! This is obvious to a normal reader that you are padding the reference list***
- ***Check your references carefully for format and to make sure all are cited (including figures and tables)***



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Why are Papers declined?

- *Poorly written /sloppy English*
- *Narrow or regional scope/inappropriate content*
- *Unstructured*
- *Insufficiently novel – lack of context*
- *Scientifically flawed*
- *Raw data not presented – description and interpretation mixed*
- *Overlap with other publications published by author*



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Things to DO

- **Get a native English speaker (and geologist!) to proof read the text**
- **Keep data and interpretations separate!**
- **Consider how your work relates to recent advances in the field**
- **Check formatting of equations carefully throughout the review process**
- **Think about using a high-impact summary graphic**



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Things not to DO

- *Include unnecessary photographs*
- *Repeat yourself*
- *Overuse codes and acronyms – spell it out*
- *Use acronyms in Abstract or Conclusions*
- *Cite figures out of order*
- *Use footnotes*
- *Under or overuse headings*



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Number of Papers

- In a normal year we receive about 150-200 papers
- We can normally publish about 70-80
- The rejection rate has to be ~ 50% or greater
- Otherwise we end up with a large backlog which has to be cleared and has implications on author satisfaction and the cost to the society



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Flow of Papers

- Paper Submitted to Office in Southampton
- Paper assigned to either Paul or Peter depending on subject material
- Peter or Paul assigns Associate Editor based on experience and work load
- AE chooses 2-4 reviewers



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Flow of Papers

- Reviewers have three weeks to prepare review
- On receipt of reviews AE makes recommendation to Chief Editor
- Accept
- Minor
- Major and new review
- Reject and Resubmit
- Reject



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ACCEPT

- **Very unusual to be accepted straight from first reviews**
- **Usually restricted for papers which have been through review process and to which changes have been made**



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MINOR REVISIONS

- Excellent papers usually are placed in this category
- There are always changes that need to be made to figures, references, formatting
- In most cases these need to be made by the author
- At this stage the paper is read by the Editor and other deficiencies not noted by the AE or reviewers are corrected.
- These changes are made on a copy of the word document and returned to the authors along with reviewers comments and AE comments.



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MAJOR REVISIONS

- Papers which have major deficiencies are placed in this category.
- The editor will read the reviews and compare these with the AE recommendation.
- The AE recommendation, the reviews, and the Editor's recommendation are returned to the authors.



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REJECT AND RESUBMIT

- Papers which have more major deficiencies are placed in this category.
- Usually these paper have a good idea or good data but need extra work or data
- The AE recommendation, the reviews, and the Editor's recommendation are returned to the authors.



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REJECT

- Papers can be rejected for a number of reasons including poor data, poor organization, poor figures, or combination of these factors
- Papers can also be rejected if the subject material is considered unsuitable for the journal or the material is considered by the Editors too parochial
- Even paper which may have reviewed well can be rejected by the Editors if the material is not considered suitable or if the approach taken by the authors is too parochial



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WHAT TO DO ON RESUBMISSION?

- Read all the reviews carefully!
- Answer all the criticisms of the reviewers, AE and Editor and document these point by point in a letter accompanying resubmission.
- Treat the reviewers and Editors and their suggestions with respect. If you disagree with the editors do so respectfully.
- If your paper receives a recommendation of major revisions or reject with resubmit, it is not the end of the world. Do not send abusive e-mails, but consider the comments and resubmit. The Editors and reviewers have invested time into your paper and their comments will help you .
- Use track changes.



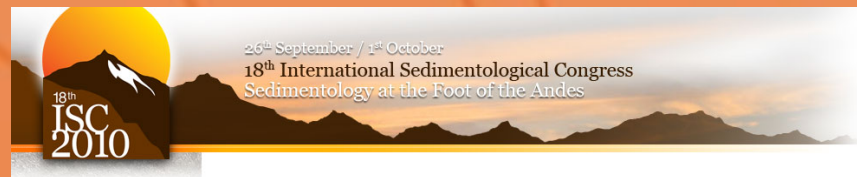
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Questions



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