

IAS

NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.blackwell-science.com/uk/society/ias>

THE FUTURE FOR PRIMARY JOURNALS

Background

In the mid 1980s, the scientific journal market was hit hard by the recession and never truly recovered. As publishers tried to combat declining library subscriptions and keep pace with inflation, journal prices spiralled upwards, further stretching the slender resources of academic institutions. Administrators have been demanding a solution to this problem for the last decade. How much belief should we have in the widely held view that electronic journals are that solution?

There are certainly many examples of past predictions in information technology which have proved hopelessly wide off the mark:

"The radio craze will die out in time" (Thomas A. Edison, 1922).

"I think there is a world market for about five computers" (T.J. Watson, Chairman of IBM, 1943).

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in their home" (Ken Olsen, President, DEC, 1967).

To help us formulate more realistic predictions, the current fashion in management schools is to focus on purpose, people and process, rather than proffer detailed forecasts and meaningless mission statements. The latest forecasts from the European

Commission on electronic publishing are safely vague, warning against the problem of information overload and the resulting disorientation. They urge publishers to develop systems which will enable users to access with relative ease the huge knowledge resources becoming available.

Technological advances

Most of the technological hurdles in electronic publishing have now been overcome. The predictions dating from around 1980 of publishing systems based on powerful, interlinked computers, with the journal article moving through the publishing process in machine-readable form, have now largely been fulfilled. Most publishers wishing to be seen as serious players in the online market are now well embarked on the process of overhauling and streamlining their production systems, to enable them to make full use of the new technology. A common aim is to hold journal material in a "neutral database", to allow journals to be made available in an array of media, such as print-on-paper, CD-ROM and online. A second priority for publishers is to dovetail their internal systems with those of suppliers, thereby streamlining production from receipt of authors' disks onwards.

Ultimately, for the purely electronic journal, the expenses of paper,

printing, binding and despatch would vanish, so "first costs" would become almost the only costs. The libraries' problem of spatial storage capacity would melt away, if only to be replaced eventually by the problem of electronic storage capacity. Successful systems should, however, be able to offer more for less.

The industry is still wrestling with the questions of technical standards and specifications, and of how commercial transactions should be handled. Ongoing trials will enable the industry standard to be set and allow the testing of new approaches to journal subscriptions and licensing.

Journal identity

A key indicator of a paper's merit is the identity of the journal in which it is published. A central objective of all journals aiming to keep pace with developments should therefore be to maintain high editorial standards and, arguably, to increase the journal's impact factor, which is frequently used rather uncritically as an indicator of worth. Authors could, in theory, make their "papers" available over the Internet free of charge, undermining the established publishing process and its economy, but three 1993 studies of why authors choose to submit articles to a journal all demonstrated that status and perceived readership are overriding considerations.

High status "publishing systems" like journals, in whatever physical form they take, should continue to attract submissions and subscribers, although access charges (by subscription or by individual article) might be quite low. There may even be a shift in the economic model, with authors paying for editorial processing on the understanding that access charges will be minimal. An incidental benefit of this is that it would save copyright holders worrying about unauthorised copying, as there would be little commercial incentive to copy illicitly.

Varied strategies

Rather than the crisis once feared, caused by spiralling journal prices and critically overstretched library budgets, the future of journal publishing is likely to be an orderly transition to online availability and new economic models. Such economic models might include, for example, large-scale site licenses, already in place in the UK, which enable readers in participating institutions to access the abstracts and/or papers in both paper and electronic form of many journals produced by the licensing publisher. Under the terms of a typical site license, photocopying restrictions can be relaxed and access to journals not held by the library provided at a substantially discounted price by electronic document delivery, to counteract the problem of the upward price spiral.

With online services, there is added value for the researcher (such as bibliographic searching and linking) and the possibility of charging by use rather than by subscriptions. It might be considered fairer to charge on the basis of use, as a large university can afford to acquire extensive holdings, thereby giving access to its students to much greater resources than a smaller institution. Through online access, a publisher could make available its whole list to both large and small universities, but charge according to size and expected usage. Consequently, the student at the smaller university would no longer be at a disadvantage. Even now, such students can easily order single articles to be delivered in electronic form direct to PC, through Internet-based document delivery services such as Blackwell Science's Journals Online service, giving them access to far greater resources than ever before. Through such services,

they can also order a discounted online personal subscription, or choose a combined paper+electronic subscription, for the price of a hardcopy subscription plus a small premium. The possible variations are limitless.

Conclusion

That said, it is clear that librarians, academics and publishers expect the print-on-paper journal to be with us for some years to come. It is most likely too that the integrity and identity of the journal will be maintained. When the dust settles, what sells journals will still be their editorial content.

*Robert Campbell and
Amanda McLean-Inglis;
Blackwell Science Ltd.*

SEDIMENTOLOGY AND THE IAS ONLINE

Web pages

We would appreciate your feedback on the IAS Web pages, to help us fulfill your needs. Please email us and let us know your comments and suggestions for improvements.

The main IAS page is at: <http://www.blackwell-science.com/uk/society/ias/default.htm>

The pages contain a description of the aims and benefits of the IAS, links to IAS publications, details of the Bureau and Council, membership details (details of fees and email links to the appropriate contact), a calendar of forthcoming meetings and links to other relevant sites worldwide.

The main page of *Sedimentology* is at: <http://www.blackwell-science.com/products/journals/sed.htm>

The *Sedimentology* pages contain full descriptive information on the Journal, details of the editors, abstracting and indexing information, an online sample copy request form, advertising and media data, instructions for authors, an order form, tables of contents of forthcoming issues and instructions on how to access the online version.

Sedimentology Online

An electronic version of the Journal is now available over the World Wide Web, through the Journals Online delivery service.

Journals Online is accessible via the World Wide Web. Users are able to browse freely, searching the table of contents and abstract database. There are a variety of methods of payment, outlined below. Current indications are that our customers will take both the electronic and paper versions of the journals, being unwilling, at least initially, to discontinue altogether their traditional paper subscriptions.

The pricing of electronic products is a complex area, not least because electronic products, unlike paper, attract UK VAT at 17.5%. Consequently, we have chosen to set the price of all online subscriptions at 90% of the price of the corresponding paper subscriptions. The online version of the Journal is available at a premium to those who maintain their paper subscription. Extensive research conducted over the past months has revealed that a combined price equal to 130% of the paper subscription price will be well received by the market. Other commercial publishers have added a greater percentage, but we firmly believe that 130% is a fair price and

one which will be accepted by the market.

Our priority at present is mounting all our journal material on the Journals Online service, and setting up the existing subscriptions, which are largely institutional. The prices for these are 90% of the paper price (online subscription only) and 130% (combined subscription), as detailed in the previous paragraph. Our general policy is that 90% of the paper members' price would also be a suitable price for members to pay for the online version. This is, of course, not set in stone. However, as we do not hold IAS members' details on our own system, we therefore do not currently have the wherewithal to supply online subscriptions in bulk to members. If individual IAS members were to come to us direct, we would supply them with the individual subscription at the appropriate 90% rate (£9.90 in 1997). As the BIDS system will primarily be used by libraries, we are now looking into purchasing a system which would allow us to hold all members' details in house and supply online members' subscriptions ourselves. This is a major undertaking and is unlikely to happen until 1999; until then, we would anticipate supplying individuals at the 90% rate on a case by case basis.

Users accessing Journals Online can search the SGML header database by keyword, author, title, journal or a combination of these and view the abstracts free of charge. If they have paid for an online subscription to a

journal then they can also download a PDF file of the full article. If they do not have a subscription then they have to pay: either by running down credits on a Journals Online account, or by credit card. Access to Journals Online is controlled by a combination of username, password and location. Credit card details will be encrypted and the security of the Internet for these transactions is already considered to be better than the telephone or postal services.

The charge for an individual article will comprise three elements: a BSL copyright fee, a handling charge from BIDS and VAT, bringing the total to about £11.50. We are testing these prices in 1997 and analysing competing services.

Summary

Journals Online offers you:

- Free online searching across all Blackwell Science journals
- Free browsing of article abstracts
- Immediate access to full text and graphics of current issues
- Facility to download, view and print individual articles
- Design and presentation identical to the paper version
- Easy to use WWW interface and free Adobe Acrobat viewing software

An online subscription offers you the full contents of the paper journal plus all the benefits of online access. And you save money. Prices for 1997 subscriptions are as follows:

	UK	Overseas	USA & Canada
Paper			
	£338.00	£372.00	\$588.00
Online			
	£304.00	£304.00	\$480.50
Combination: paper + online			
	£439.50	£473.50	\$748.00

Special terms apply to subscribers in UK Higher Education Institutions under the UK Higher Education Pilot National Site License scheme.

Supplement your journal subscriptions with key articles from other journals. Articles will be deliv-

ered direct to your computer by the Journals Online document delivery service - faster and more convenient than all others. You will be able to pay either on account or by credit card. For further information please e-mail Journal Customer Services at:

journals.cs@blacksci.co.uk
or telephone: +44 (0)1865 206126.

For Journals Online news updates, connect to:

<http://www.blackwell-science.com/online/default.htm>

For direct access to the Journals Online service at BIDS, connect to

<http://www.journalsonline.bids.ac.uk/JournalsOnline>

*Amanda McLean-Inglis;
Journal Publishing Manager;
Blackwell Science.*

REPORT ON THE SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHIC WORKSHOP FOR THE CBGA MEMBER COUNTRIES JUNE 9-14, 1997, SÜMEG, HUNGARY

The workshop was organized by the Hungarian Stratigraphic and the Sedimentologic Commissions and was held at the geological training base at Sümeg where bungalows served for accommodation and two stone houses for presentation of papers, for meals, informal talk and discussion.

The idea to arrange a sequence stratigraphic workshop has arisen in Athens at the CBGA congress 1995, noticing that the subject is under-represented among the papers. The notion was supported by both the President of the Association (W. Janoschek) and the General Secretary of the IAS (A. Strasser). The aim of this meeting was to promote deepening the knowledge of the discipline in the Carpathian-Balkan region with the help of outstanding keynote lecturers: A. Strasser for carbonate sequences, F. Suriyk for siliciclastic sequences and H. Leereveld for biota (their significance in sequence analysis).

The workshop was attended by 51 geoscientists (mainly youngsters) from the following countries: Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

The presentation of participants were preceded by a keynote lecture

and a case study of the actual subject every day. In order to stimulate discussion an hour was devoted for each paper for presentation and discussion. Including keynote lectures and case studies all together 23 papers were presented. They comprised the stratigraphic interval from the base of the Triassic up to the top of the Pliocene. About half of the papers dealt with siliciclastic sequences while the other half with carbonate or mixed sequences. Several papers provided examples for usage of distribution of fossils in the distinction of sequences or cycles. Application of seismic methods to the sequence analysis was also demonstrated by Neogene case studies.

The participants were active in pointing out uncertainties and clearing up situations, but in accordance with the expectations in several questions the notes or comments of the keynote lecturers were fundamental. It turned out during the discussions that the keynote lecturers were selected luckily because their approaches were often different and their discussion offered a good opportunity to obtain an insight into the complexity of sequence stratigraphy.

After the three-day-indoor-meeting the workshop was finished with an excursion in the Balaton Highland where the Triassic sequence strati-

graphic phenomena were shown in stratigraphic order.

At the end of the workshop participants expressed their wishes to continue this initiation that could not have been realized without financial

aid of IAS and the kind contribution of the keynote lecturers.

*Géza Császár and János Haas;
Budapest.*

SEDIMENTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF JAPAN ACTIVITY REPORT 1997

The Sedimentological Society of Japan, founded in 1968, is the only society for sedimentologists in Japan. Present members exceed five hundred and the number gradually increased during the past several years.

The Sedimentological Society of Japan publishes its own journal "Journal of Sedimentological Society of Japan" biannually and seven to fifteen original articles are published in each journal. The latest issue No. 44, published in January 1997, contains for example 7 articles, counting 124 pages. Approximately one third of the articles are written in English; the other two thirds are written in Japanese, all having English abstracts. More than 10% of the authors are from foreign countries including United States, Russia, Canada, Australia, Spain, Norway, Turkey, Malaysia, and India.

Meetings of the society have been held regularly twice a year in spring and fall. A spring meeting has special lectures by invited speakers and a general meeting. The fall meeting consists of technical sessions and symposia. Both meetings are ac-

companied by pre- or post-meeting field excursions.

The Sedimentological Society of Japan offers unique opportunities of scientific activities for Japanese sedimentologists, where a wide range of scientific topics including physical sedimentology, sequence stratigraphy, diagenesis, basin analysis, and palaeoenvironmental studies are discussed. In recent years, sedimentological research in Japan is directed more towards the subjects of global importance, as well as those related to essential sedimentary processes. The number of international cooperative research has also increased and attempts to integrate field studies with laboratory experiments and/or computer simulation become more popular. In association with such a recent trend, desires of the members to make the society more open to other countries increases gradually.

*Ryuji Tada;
Geological Institute;
University of Tokyo;
7-3-1 Hongo, Tokyo 113, Japan.*

SECOND HAND BOOKSHOP

The young researchers from the Geological Institute of Romania need any kind of geological books and journals for their libraries.

Thank you for your help.

Contact: Cristina Petrache,
Geological Institute of Romania,
Caransebes 1 str.,
78344 Bucharest 32, Romania
Fax: +40 1 312 8444
E-mail: badescu@igr.ro

CARBONATES & EVAPORITES

Carbonates & Evaporites, v. 12, no. 1 is an issue based on a symposium titled "Evaporite Karst: Origins, Processes, Landforms, Examples, and Impacts". Evaporite karst from Alabama, Arizona, Canada, England, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and South Dakota are included. The issue begins with a general overview of evaporite karst. This special issue is available through

the Northeastern Science Foundation
affiliated with Brooklyn College,
Rensselaer Center of Applied
Geology, 15 Third Street, P.O. Box
746, Troy, NY 12181 -0746.

E-mail: gmfriedman@juno.com
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Tel: +1 518 273 3247

*Gerald M. Friedman;
Troy, NY; U.S.A.*

FLOODPLAINS '98
JUNE 25-26, 1998

Two-day meeting under the auspices of BSRG with the support of BGRG (British Geomorphology Research Group) with the aim of bringing together sedimentologists, geomorphologists, hydrologists, environmentalists and stratigraphers to discuss floodplains. Oral and poster contributions on any aspect of floodplains are welcome, but the meeting will specifically address problems of: (a) morphology and classification; (b) ecology and management, (c) flood behaviour and risk, (d) sediment transport and deposition, (e) pollutant storage and

release, (f) floodplain aquifers, (g) stratigraphy and modelling, (h) ancient deposits and alluvial architecture.

It is envisaged that selected papers will be published in a Geological Society Special Publication. Registration forms and abstract details are available from the convenors. The deadline for abstracts and registration is 1st January 1998.

*Jim Hendry;
Queens University;
Belfast, Ireland.*

CALENDAR

SECOND NEPAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

November 11-13, 1997

NEPAL (Kathmandu)

Contact: B.N. Upreti, Nepal Geological Society, P.O. Box. 231, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Tel: +977 1 416 386

Fax: +977 1 414 804

1ST LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SEDIMENTOLOGY 8TH VENEZUELAN CONGRESS OF GEOLOGY

November 16-19, 1997

VENEZUELA (Margarita Island)

Contact: Juan Humberto Rios, Sociedad Venezolana de Geólogos, Aptdo de Correos No. 17493, Parque Central, Caracas, Venezuela.

Fax: +58 2 2340716

E-mail: svg@mailserver.reacciun.ve

6ÈME CONGRÈS FRANÇAIS DE SÉDIMENTOLOGIE 6TH FRENCH SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS

November 17-19, 1997

FRANCE (Montpellier)

Contact: Jean François Deconinck, Lab. de Sédimentologie et Géodynamique, URA CNRS 719, Univ. de Lille I, F 59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq cedex, France.

Tel: +33 3 20 43 41 45

Fax: +33 3 20 43 49 10

E-mail: jean-francois.deconinck@univ-lille1.fr

ADVANCES IN SEDIMENTOLOGY First Australasian Sedimentology Conference

December 3-4, 1997

AUSTRALIA (Melbourne)

Contact: Dr. Tom Bernecker, School of Earth Sciences, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3052, Australia.

Tel: +61 3 9344 6529

Fax: +61 3 9344 7761

E-mail:

t.bernecker@earth_sciences.unimelb.edu.au

JURASSIC / CRETACEOUS CARBONATE PLATFORM - BASIN SYSTEMS - MIDDLE EAST MODELS

December 4-12, 1997

U.A.E. (Al Ain)

Contact: SEPM, Attention: Judy Tarpley, 1731 E. 71st Street, Tulsa, OK 74136, U.S.A.

Fax: +1 918 493 2093

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON APPLIED SEDIMENTOLOGY & 14TH CONVENTION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

December 12-14, 1997

INDIA (Madras)

Contact: Dr. S. Ramasamy, Department of Geology, Guindy Campus, University of Madras, Chennai - 600 025, India.

Tel: +91 44 23 51 137 Ext: 218

Fax: +91 44 23 52 870, +91 44 56 66 93

E-mail: srsamy@unimad.ernet.in

36th BSRG AGM

December 20-22, 1997

UNITED KINGDOM (Liverpool)

Contact: Dr. John Howell, Dept. of Earth
Sciences, University of Liverpool, PO Box
147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

E-mail: jah1@liv.ac.uk

**6TH MEETING OF SWISS
SEDIMENTOLOGISTS**

January 31, 1998

SWITZERLAND (Fribourg)

Contact: André Strasser, Institut de
Géologie, Pérolles, 1700 Fribourg,
Switzerland.

Tel: +41 26 300 8978

Fax: +41 26 300 9742

E-mail: andreas.strasser@unifr.ch

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON COAL SEAM GAS AND OIL**

March 24-26, 1998

AUSTRALIA (Brisbane)

Contact: The International Conference on
Coal Seam Gas and Oil, Intermedia
Convention and Event Management,
PO Box 1280, Milton QLD 4064, Australia.

Tel: +617 3369 0477

Fax: +617 3369 1512

E-mail: csgo98@im.com.au

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL
BIOEROSION WORKSHOP**

March 30 - April 3, 1998.

U.S.A. (Fort Pierce, Florida)

Contact: Dr. Debra Krumm, Harbor Branch
Oceanographic Museum, 5600 U.S. 1
North, Fort Pierce, FL 34946, U.S.A.

Tel: +1 561 465 2400, Ext: 428

Fax: +1 561 465 5743

E-mail: krumm@hboi.edu

**15TH INTERNATIONAL
SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS**

April 13-17, 1998

SPAIN (Alicante)

Contact: 15th ISC, Dep. de Ciencias de la
Tierra y Medio Ambiente, Facultad de
Ciencias, Universidad de Alicante, Ap. 99,
03080 Alicante, Spain.

Tel: +34 65 90 35 52

Fax: +34 65 90 35 52

E-mail: ctierra@vm.cpd.ua.es

**PRE-VARISCAN TERRANE
ANALYSIS OF GONDWANAN
EUROPE**

April 29 - May 4, 1998

GERMANY (Dresden)

Contact: Bernd D. Erdtmann, TU Berlin,
Institut für Angewandte Geologie II, Ernst-
Reuther-Platz 1, Sekr. EB 10, D-10587
Berlin, Germany.

Tel: +49 30 314 23582

Fax: +49 30 314 21107

E-mail: erdt0936@mailszr.zrz.tu-berlin.de
orUlf Linnemann, Staatliches Museum für
Mineralogie und Geologie Dresden,
Augustusstr. 2, D-01067 Dresden,
Germany.

Tel: +49 351 4952446

Fax: +49 351 4952468

E-mail: mrmg@sik.de

FLOODPLAINS '98

June 25-26, 1998

UNITED KINGDOM (Norwich)

Contact: Dr. Jan Alexander, School of
Environmental Sciences, The University of
East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, U.K.
or Sue Marriott, School of Environmental
Management and Geography, University of
the West of England, Coldharbour Lane,
Bristol, BS16 1QY, U.K.

E-mail: j.alexander@uea.ac.uk

or s-marrio@uwe.ac.uk

**PALAEODIVERSIFICATIONS
LAND AND SEA COMPARED**

July 6-8, 1998

FRANCE (Lyon)

Contact: Mireille Gayet, UFR des Sciences
de la terre, Université Claude Bernard, Lyon
I, 27-43 bd du 11 novembre 1918, 69622
Villeurbanne cedex, France.

Tel: +33 4 72 44 83 98

Fax: +33 4 72 44 84 36

E-mail: gayet@univ-lyon1.fr
lysiane.thevenod@univ-lyon1.fr

GEOCONGRESS '98**Geological Society of South Africa**

July 8-10, 1998

SOUTH AFRICA (Pretoria)

Contact: The Secretary: Sedimentology
Division, c/o M.J. Schweitzer, P.O. Box
91230, Auckland Park 2006, South Africa.

Tel: +27 11 358 0174

Fax: +27 11 482 1214

E-mail: jschweit@csir.co.za

**SEDIMENT TRANSPORT AND
DEPOSITION BY PARTICULATE
GRAVITY CURRENTS**

September 7-9, 1998

U.K. (Leeds)

Contact: Ben Kneller, Earth Sciences
Department, University of Leeds, Leeds
LS2 9JT, U.K.

Tel: +44 113 233 6625

Fax: +44 113 233 5259

E-mail: ben@earth.leeds.ac.uk.

Web: [http://earth.leeds.ac.uk/turbidites/
conference.htm](http://earth.leeds.ac.uk/turbidites/conference.htm)

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON THE EPICONTINENTAL
TRIASSIC**

September 21-23, 1998

GERMANY (Halle / Saale)

Contact: G.H. Bachmann, G. Beutler, H.
Haubold, Inst. of Geosciences and Geiseltal
Museum, Martin Luther University,
Domstrasse 5, D - 06099 Halle / Saale,
Germany.

Tel: +49 345 55 26070 / 71

Fax: +49 345 55 27178

THE BATHURST MEETING

July 12-15, 1999

UNITED KINGDOM (Cambridge)

Contact: Dr. J.A.D. Dickson, Dept. of Earth
Sciences, University of Cambridge,
Downing St., Cambridge, CB2 3EQ, U.K.

Tel: +44 (0)1223 333400

Fax: +44 (0)1223 333450

E-mail: jadd1@esc.cam.ac.uk

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