
EDITORIAL

Recent and future changes to the *Quarterly Journal*

The role of scientific journals is changing as the shift is made from traditional paper journals to electronic publishing, in which individual articles are available on-line as soon as they are typeset. Taking advantage of electronic publishing was one of the chief goals of the previous Editors, Peter Read and Ian Roulstone, who guided the *Quarterly Journal* through enormous changes from a single-column print publication to the journal that you are reading today – while maintaining the journal's reputation for intellectual rigour, professionalism, and high quality presentation. Along with the changes to production and layout has come an increase in the impact factor of the *Quarterly Journal*, to 2.893 in 2007. (The impact factor for 2007 equals the total number of citations in 2007 for papers published in 2005–2006, divided by the total number of papers published in 2005–2006).

As the new Editors of the *Quarterly Journal*, one of our goals is to continue to improve the speed of both the review and publication processes, while continuing to publish the best available international research in the fundamental and applied atmospheric and oceanic sciences, with the high scientific and publication standards that the journal is known for. The administration, production, and marketing of the journal is now managed by a team of professionals at Wiley-Blackwell, based in Chichester. The entire workflow of submission, review, and publication is now fully electronic, and is done through Manuscript Central (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/qj/>). This system not only makes it easier and faster from the authors' perspective, but allows us, as Editors, to monitor and accelerate each stage of journal processing. One of the advantages of working with Wiley-Blackwell is access to the resources needed to successfully market the journal internationally. Accordingly, one of our goals is to work with Wiley-Blackwell to strengthen the journal's reputation and influence outside the UK – in Europe and North America, as well as Asia, Australia, and Africa.

Consistent with our vision for **reduced times to publication**, we are asking reviewers to complete their assignments within 28 days. Overall, the mean time from initial submission to final electronic publication is currently just under seven months, which includes approximately 50 days that the author spends revising the manuscript or examining the page proofs. It is our immediate goal to further reduce the total time to less than six months, without sacrificing scientific or production quality, through careful monitoring of every stage of manuscript processing. We are certain that running such a tight production schedule will pay off by enhancing the journal's reputation.

One shift in focus that the Editorial Board has made is to increase the number of high-profile **review papers**. Board members will be soliciting such papers, but we also welcome suggestions by potential authors for review papers that will be of high interest to *Quarterly Journal* readers.

The *Quarterly Journal* continues to publish papers across a broad range of topics within the atmospheric sciences, applied meteorology and physical oceanography. The Editorial Board and the Publications Committee are particularly keen to increase the number of papers dealing with **climate variability and climate change**. We therefore encourage authors to submit papers in these topic areas. We will also continue to publish **Special Issues** on a wide variety of topics.

To assist us with our goal of improving the *Quarterly Journal*, please contact us directly with any comments or suggestions.

John Thurn (J.Thurn@exeter.ac.uk) and Mark Baldwin (mark@nwra.com)

12 November 2008