

Editorial

Here I am, writing my final Editorial for the International Journal of Speleology.

Following the decision to publish the IJS on a 4-monthly basis, this is the second issue of 2013. The flood of new articles being submitted is continuing, thanks in part to the high Impact Factor (IF), but I'm afraid this might fall a little this year.

January's issue contained 9 articles totalling about 100 pages, and this May issue contains a similar number of articles and pages. More than 20 new submissions are bubbling in the editorial pot, so we are confident that the September issue will be equally rich. What's more, the greater the number of (high quality) articles we publish, the more stable our IF should become. Certainly we shouldn't worry too much if the IF behaves a bit like a yoyo from time to time. Overall we simply have to keep receiving and accepting worthy scientific articles that will certainly be read and referenced by the scientific community.

Now that the journal is available online-only, I hope that the change of publication policy hasn't created too many problems for our readers. The possibility of providing a Print on Demand (POD) option is still being explored, but currently we are struggling to find someone to handle this job. Ultimately, those readers who do need or prefer a paper version will probably know where and how to produce a printed copy for themselves, potentially saving money in the end considering that postal handling services are expensive these days.

In the next issue Bogdan will probably be writing his first IJS Editorial, and no doubt as he settles into the role he will introduce modifications that will continue to improve the Journal. Equally I am confident that we will all give him whatever support and encouragement he needs in meeting the challenge of editing the IJS.

My work as Editor-in-Chief of the IJS for seven years has given me immense satisfaction, as well as bringing me into contact with lots of colleagues around the world. Of course it was hard work, but I have no doubt that it was all worth the effort. Now I will have more time to dedicate to my own research, planning new projects and writing more articles.

Many thanks to the many individuals who have encouraged me throughout these seven years; without their friendship, their suggestions and their criticisms the journal could never have become what it is now.

I hope I'll see you around (perhaps in one cave or another...).

Jo De Waele

