



## Editorial: *E&G Quaternary Science Journal* – a community-based open-access journal

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*E&G Quaternary Science Journal (EGQ SJ)* was established under the name *Eiszeitalter & Gegenwart* (i.e. “ice age and present” in German) in 1951 and has since then covered the broad range of Quaternary research. By linking insights from the past (i.e. the ice age) with the present, our publications provide an interdisciplinary understanding and knowledge that becomes even more important in the context of the current challenges of global climate change. Unrestricted access to such knowledge is key, and consequently the year 2019 marked the 10th anniversary of *EGQ SJ* as a gold open-access journal. During this last decade, the scientific publishing sector has undergone a number of significant transformations. These include the final shift from analogue to digital formats and the concentration of publications under the terms of a few large scientific publishing houses, offering exclusive paywall protected access to the published scientific work. The most recent transformation is the shift towards open-access publication. This trend has recently been enforced (and supported by extra funding) through changes in the regulations of a number of European and national science funders (e.g. German Science Foundation, DFG; Austrian Science Fund, FWF; European Research Council, ERC), who explicitly demand publication of the results from funded research projects as open access. In this respect, *EGQ SJ* has not only stood the test of time, but has been at the leading edge of this development.

In contrast to the large majority of geoscientific and Quaternary-related journals, *EGQ SJ* has always been, and will always stay, a non-profit, community-based effort: it is run by Quaternary scientists, financed by Quaternary scientists, and supports Quaternary scientists, because any revenue generated is only used to support publications in the journal. In close cooperation with Copernicus Publications, the journal offers an up-to-date publishing infrastructure guaranteeing high-quality, open-access, peer-reviewed publications adhering to all quality standards and publication ethics. Not least because of that, *EGQ SJ* is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and was awarded the DAOJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) seal in 2018, recognizing the journal’s exceptionally high level of publishing standards and best practice. All content of *EGQ SJ* is distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). Thus, the journal provides free immediate access to and unrestricted reuse of all types of original works by any user. Of course, authors do retain copyright. Apart from assigning each publication with a digital object identifier (DOI), articles and bibliographic metadata are also distributed to scientific databases and indices, long-term preservation is guaranteed by external archives, and article alert service is offered. *EGQ SJ* is listed in the Zoological Record within the Web of Science, and the aim is to establish *EGQ SJ* as a fully indexed journal in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE). However, our primary aim is to es-

tablish *EGQ SJ* as a leading platform for the publication of high-quality, open-access Quaternary-related papers.

We, the new editorial board established in January 2019, fully support the course of the journal and aim to even push *EGQ SJ* to new levels. *EGQ SJ*’s 2019 publication record must be regarded as an excellent start in this respect, comprising the highest number of papers compared to the last eight volumes, including full research papers but also express reports dealing with innovative aspects of Quaternary research. All papers of course adhere to the exceptionally high quality standards of *EGQ SJ*. In 2019, two teams of guest editors strongly supported the editorial team, which led to the publication of two special issues introduced in separate editorials in this volume. Overall, the published papers cover the whole range of subject areas of the journal, including Quaternary geology, paleo-environments, paleo-ecology, soil science, paleo-climatology, geomorphology, geochronology, archaeology, geoarchaeology, and now also encompassing methodological advances and aspects of the societal relevance of Quaternary research. Beyond that, thesis abstracts have become an essential part of *EGQ SJ*, reflecting the effort in supporting in particular young researchers in making their high-quality work visible and accessible to a broader audience. To guarantee fair access to thesis abstracts, the Quaternary scientific community, as represented by the host institution of *EGQ SJ*, the German Quaternary Association (DEUQUA), always covers the article processing charges (APCs) for the publication of thesis abstracts. This is in line with the journal’s general guidance, to put scientific quality first and not let money be a limiting factor in open-access publication of high-quality research. However, all authors who have third-party funding available to cover the APCs themselves can thereby actively support the journal, and with it the Quaternary scientific community.

Please take your chance to join us in shaping the future of the journal by considering *EGQ SJ* as a reputable, worthwhile alternative for publication of scientific papers, innovative express reports, and thesis abstracts dealing with Quaternary research. Submit now at <https://www.eg-quaternary-science-journal.net/>.

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