



Editorial: summary of activities 2008

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1. Summary of Activities

It is with much tiredness, and anticipation for 2009, that this annual December editorial is being written. If 2007 was characterised by a period of exciting growth, then this year can be described as consolidation. Whilst it may appear that we have delivered “more of the same”, there has been a considerable amount of behind the scenes administration that has led to continued growth. In my annual review of activities of the Journal of Maps last year I noted we had gone from 5 articles (56 pages) in 2005 to 27 articles (376 pages) in 2007. This growth is again shown this year with 38 articles (508 pages). To put this within the context of my own discipline, geomorphology, the top two journals published 244 and 148 articles each in 2007. This is clearly a subject specific benchmark, but shows generally that academic publishing is labour intensive with relatively low numbers of publications. That we have been this successful is a mark of the importance now being given to the presentation of research maps.

It is also worth stressing that the journal operates on a three issues per year cycle, publishing in April, August and December. Where there are further special issues, these will be published as soon as possible. This means we have consistency in publication, as well as rapid dissemination of output from special calls and conferences. This year is no exception with three special issues highlighted in Table 1. I am again thankful to the lead editors as a considerable amount of effort goes in to coordinating authors and reviewers.

One of JoM’s primary innovations has been the ability for researchers to publish maps in a peer-reviewed journal and receive credit for the work they have completed. We have been pursuing further innovation within this



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<i>Title</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Editors</i>
Applied Geomorphological Mapping	Applied Geomorphological Mapping Working Group, International Association of Geomorphologists	Dr Paolo Paron Dr Mike Smith
Transport Networks	Call for papers	Professor Chris Wright
Quaternary of the British Isles and adjoining seas	Quaternary Research Association Annual Discussion Meeting, London, January 2008	Professor Jim Rose Dr Mike Smith Dr Sven Lukas

Table 1. Titles, sources and editors of special issues (2008)

broad area, including the publication of data. Several articles have included the original data as an embedded ZIP file within the PDF of the manuscript. Data is often deposited in a repository, but this then separates the data from the manuscript, increasing the difficulty for users/readers to retrieve the original work. Where practical and appropriate, it is beneficial for the two to reside together. It is important that this data is vetted both for applicability and that it is accompanied by appropriate metadata. JoM is pleased to welcome Tony Mathys (EDINA) as our Geospatial Metadata Co-ordinator; he works with geospatial archives at EDINA (<http://www.edina.ac.uk>) and brings expert knowledge of this area. In terms of referencing, data are cited as if they were a section in a book. So for example:

DUNLOP, P. and CLARK, C. D. (2008) Published Data. In DUNLOP, P. and CLARK, C. D. The Distribution of Ribbed Moraines in the Lac Naococane Region, Central Québec, Canada, *Journal of Maps*, v2006, 59-70.

This not only acknowledges that raw data is a separate product and should be recognised as such, but also offers the opportunity for data authors to be listed who could be different from the authors of the main article. This leverages the ability of JoM to provide formal credit for a researcher's contribution to an article over and above the informal use of "Acknowledgements".

This naturally leads to giving credit to others involved in the production of a JoM article, other than data. One solution, often seen in science teams, is for those involved in the design, production, monitoring and processing of

an instrument and its data, is to list all participants. Research articles can involve in excess of 30 primary authors. I don't believe this in any way reflects the contribution to an *individual* article. For example, analysis of Martian slope failures could not be undertaken without the explicit work of the teams involved in the satellite and sensor from which the data is collected, but they have had no significant input to the article itself. At the other extreme there are also products, such as individual maps produced by geological surveys, where there may be no recognition of individuals with only a single corporate author.

JoM has therefore implemented a system whereby those who have had significant involvement in a project, but would not normally be considered "authors", can be listed as "Secondary Authors". The sorts of people that might fall into this category include cartographers, database managers, fieldworkers etc. Secondary authors can also be cited separately from the primary authors as in the example below.

HARRISON, S. (2008) Secondary Author. In SMITH, M. J., KNIGHT, J. and FIELD, K. S. Glacial striae observations for Ireland compiled from historic records, Journal of Maps, v2008, 373-393.

We believe this to be an innovative development and allows research organisations to appropriately credit those who have contributed to the outputs of research where normally they would receive no formal credit.

2. Best Map Award

As JoM has grown since it was first published in 2005 we have established a back catalogue of 91 articles (including editorials), with maps covering many countries and, indeed, planets. From 2008 we have initiated a "Best Map" award to be presented to the single best contribution to the journal in the year it was published. Contributions are judged upon both their academic content *and* cartographic quality. It is neither the best academic paper nor the best designed map, but a combination of qualities from both areas. The winners of the award will, where financially and technically feasible, see their map published as part of a limited 1000 copy print run which will be made available for sale "at cost".

It is with great pleasure that I am able award the 2008 "Best Map" to Eva

Sahlin and Neil Glasser at the Centre for Glaciology, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, Aberystwyth University, for their publication titled “A geomorphological map of Cadair Idris, Wales.” This map is the result of extensive and detailed field mapping and aerial photo interpretation of the Cadair Idris upland area in mid-Wales, forming the core of Eva’s PhD thesis. It represents a significant amount of work and will be used to develop further insights in to the operation of former ice cover in the region. It is therefore a significant contribution to geomorphology and glaciology, as well as an exemplar of cartographic design.

3. Acknowledgements

In order to conclude this summary of activities for 2008 I would like to thank those authors who have submitted articles to JoM for publication. I believe we have a rigorous peer-review process and must be unusual in obtaining four independent reviews. This includes two external reviewers, an internal editor (Table 2) and a professional cartographer. Whilst the academic content of an article must be appropriate, I am often dismayed at the poor quality of graphical content in other journals. Our cartographic reviews provide critical, but helpful, commentary to authors and in most situations improve the final map, many significantly. I hope that authors perceive the benefit that both they, and the journal, receive through this process.

External referees remain central to the peer-review process and I extend my gratitude to those who have given up their time to critically evaluate manuscripts. This is often a thankless task and it is therefore with thanks that Table 3 lists those referees that have supplied reviews.

Thanks are also due to Samantha Harrison (Open University) and Dr Carlos Grohmann (University of São Paulo) for their extensive work in typesetting all of the articles that have been published this year. This involves a considerable amount of work and significantly supports the operation of the journal.

It has been a very successful year for the journal, with much more planned for the future. Yet our principle aim remains the same, that is serving the academic community by providing opportunities for the publication of map based research.

Editorial Panel

Dr Simon Batterbury, University of Melbourne
Dr Richard Berg, Illinois State Geological Survey
Professor Chris Clark, University of Sheffield
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Dr Dan Jacobson, University of Calgary
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Sally Hermansen, University of British Columbia
Jeremy Hodgson, British Geological Survey
Chandra Jayasuriya, University of Melbourne
Iain McDonald, Collins Geo
Brian Rogers, University of Plymouth
Graeme Sandeman, University of St Andrews
Mike Shand, University of Glasgow
Mike Siegel, Rutgers
Michel Sigouin, Natural Resources Canada

Table 2. Academic and Cartographic Editors

<i>Referee</i>	<i>Institution</i>
Prof Allen	California State University Northridge
Dr Anagnostopoulou	Middlesex University
Dr Anderson	NOAA
Mr Austin	Austin Analytics
Prof Bennett	Bournemouth University
Ms Birdsall	Arizona State University
Dr Brinkmann	University of South Florida
Prof Bromhead	Kingston University
Prof Carey	Queen's University Belfast
Dr Carr	Queen Mary University of London
Dr Cerdá	University of Valencia
Dr Chester	University of Liverpool
Mr Chilton	Middlesex University
Dr Chiverrell	University of Liverpool
Dr Cooke	University of Waterloo
Dr Coutts	Florida State University
Prof Coxon	University College Dublin
Dr D Evans	Durham University
Prof Derbyshire	Royal Holloway University of London
Dr Fantozzi	Università degli Studi di Siena
Dr Faulkner	University of Liverpool
Dr Godt	United States Geological Survey
Dr Hughes	University of Manchester
Dr I Evans	Durham University
Dr James	Swansea University
Dr Jordan	Geological Institute of Hungary
Dr Kapp	University of Arizona
Ms Kemp	University of Kent
Prof Kirkby	University of Leeds
Dr Knight	Exeter University
Dr Korup	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research
Prof Lehmkuhl	Aachen University
Dr Lukas	Queen Mary University of London
Dr McCarron	NUI Maynooth
Dr Mennis	Temple University
Mr Merritt	British Geological Survey
Dr Mesev	Florida State University
Dr Morrison	Glasgow University
Dr Neis	Memorial University
Dr Noland	Imperial College
Dr O'Brien	Kingston University
Dr Persano	Glasgow University
Dr Ross	University of Edinburgh
Dr Ruiz	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas

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Table 3 – continued from previous page

<i>Referee</i>	<i>Institution</i>
Dr Seijmonsbergen	University of Amsterdam
Dr Shepherd	Leeds University
Prof Sugan	University of Edinburgh
Dr van Westen	ITC
Dr Vila-Concejo	University of Sydney
Mr Walters	Halcrow
Dr Winkler	Wuerzburg University
Dr Winter	Transport Research Laboratory
Prof Wright	Dartmouth College
Dr Yousif	Salford University

Table 3. Referees at the Journal of Maps 2008