



Editorial

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1. Summary of Activities

It has been an exciting period of growth at the Journal of Maps (JoM) over the last three years and, as we come to the end of 2007, it seems particularly appropriate to provide a summary of our activities, an outline of our future plans and acknowledge the support from those involved with the journal.

As I noted in my first editorial ([Smith, 2005](#)), *the Journal of Maps has come out of the realisation that academic map publication is in gradual decline*. That need has been born out by growth in the volume of materials published since the first (and only) issue in 2005. This was followed by two issues in 2006 and four issues in 2007. More specifically, this represents 5 articles (or 56 pages) in 2005, 11 articles (or 129 pages) in 2006 and 27 articles (or 376 pages) in 2007. This is comprised of both general issues arising from unsolicited submissions and special issues. The special issues have arisen out of both conferences and more general calls for papers. Table 1 lists the issue titles, source for papers and guest editors. We are particularly grateful to guest editors for this task which requires a considerable amount of work and co-ordination.



Title	Source	Editors
Glacial Geology and Geomorphology	Glacial Sedimentary Processes and Products, University of Wales Aberystwyth, August 22-27 2005	Professor Neil Glasser Professor Chris Clarke
Three-dimensional Geological Mapping for Groundwater Applications	Geological Society of America Workshop on Three-dimensional Mapping for Groundwater Applications" 2005	Dr Dick Berg
Maps in Motion	Call for papers	Professor Chris Wright

Table 1 Titles, sources and editors of special issues (2005-2007)

JoM also launched the Journal of Maps Student Edition (SE) during 2007 under the editorship of Dr Dick Berg (Principal Geologist, Illinois State Geological Survey). The first issue resulted from the British Geomorphological Research Group's (now the British Society for Geomorphology) 2006 Postgraduate Conference that was held at the University of Ulster, Coleraine. This is an exciting venture and is intended to provide a "first-publishing" opportunity to (principally) post-graduate students (Smith and Lynch, 2007). First and foremost, SE offers a peer-reviewed outlet for research material that might otherwise remain unpublished. However, it also aims to provide a learning environment through which students can participate in the peer-review process prior to having the full experience "unleashed" upon them!

Whilst the volume of material published clearly demonstrates the appeal of JoM with authors, what about readers? JoM has nearly 2,500 registered users at its website. Table 2 presents the number of downloads for the 10 most popular maps. Whilst these figures are raw "log" data and include downloads attributable to both the review process and multiple individual downloads, it shows that JoM publications are being regularly accessed. And all this content is copied (*mirrored*) to the UK Mirror Service (2007) where access is unrestricted.

Author	Title	Downloads
Hättes- trand and Clark	The glacial geomorphology of Kola Peninsula and adjacent areas in Murmansk Region, Russia	1364
Chew	1:2,500 Geological Map of South Achill Island and Achill Beg, Western Ireland	1167
Jansson	Map of the glacial geomorphology of north-central Québec-Labrador, Canada	1130
Ventura et al	Geomorphological map of the Somma-Vesuvius volcanic complex (Italy)	787
Stokes et al	Geomorphological Map of Ribbed Moraines on the Dubawnt Lake Palaeo-Ice Stream Bed: A Signature of Ice Stream Shut-down?	698
Carrivick and Twigg	Jökulhlaup-influenced Topography and Geomorphology	691
Mitchell and Riley	Drumlin map of the western Pennines and southern Vale of Eden, northern England	618
Field	Mapping the British Motor Sport Industry in Northamptonshire	559
Evans et al	Surficial geology and geomorphology of the þórisjökull plateau icefield, west-central Iceland	413
Storrar and Stokes	A Glacial Geomorphological Map of Victoria Island, Canadian Arctic	375

Table 2 Ten most downloaded maps (2005-2007)

At this point, I must note that JoM has been established to promote the publication of research based maps. Extensive research articles are better published in established, subject based, journals, not least because they will reach the target audience. However we do encourage the presentation of limited results and interpretations to help illustrate the map. That said, there have been exceptions to this generality and, as editor, I am prepared to consider “spatial” material that might remain unpublished if it were not available in JoM. The special issue on Transport Mapping provides an example of, for example, 3D modelling that is difficult to both represent and publish.

JoM also remains involved in national and international debates on copyright and publication (Smith, 2006). Its establishment as a charity, and

open-access publication, are a clear indication that we believe outputs of research and, more generally, ‘knowledge’ should be freely available. Currently, two maps remain unpublished due to copyright restrictions relating to third party source data. We also have the ludicrous publication “solution” of [Lukas and Lukas \(2006a\)](#) and [Lukas and Lukas \(2006b\)](#). In this instance a well drafted map has been ‘cut’ in to 12 panels, appearing across two articles, in order to meet third party copyright restrictions.

Related to maps and data copyright is data publication. Research funding bodies are increasingly placing greater emphasis on archiving data and there is some suggestion ([Smith, M. J., 2007](#)) that data publication should be taken more seriously and, indeed, become and peer-reviewed, citable, research output. As an initial venture, JoM has published data alongside the maps themselves (e.g. [Dunlop and Clark, 2006](#)) and encourages other authors to do so, where appropriate. In this way, the data will be inextricably linked to the research.

2. Future Plans

The next year has further special issues planned. These include an issue dedicated to geomorphological maps, resulting out of work by the Applied Geomorphological Mapping Working Group ([Applied Geomorphological Working Group, 2007](#)) of the International Association of Geomorphologists. There will also be a second transport related issue this time focusing upon Transport Networks. The Student Edition is liaising closely with the United States Geological Survey’s [EDMAP \(2007\)](#) Programme to promote the submission of geological field mapping by students. Finally, a call for “Campus Maps” has been made, encouraging the submission of maps of university campus’ from undergraduate and postgraduate cartography classes. We also hope that this will facilitate closer cooperation between university cartographers and cartography classes. As a final note on our future plans, citation listing remains a significant goal for us. We appreciate that many academics have their output assessed based upon submission of papers to journals that are citation listed. We are therefore planning to submit JoM for citation listing.

3. Acknowledgements

As a conclusion to this brief “status” of JoM, it would be inappropriate not to publicly thank those that have assisted in the publication of articles. In particular there would be no JoM without maps to publish. I would like to thank the authors for choosing to publish with JoM and am gratified that my perceived need for a publication route for maps is shared enthusiastically by others. This platform has enabled us to engage with new authors in a variety of disciplines and disseminate JoM as a potential route for publication.

As a referee of manuscripts for other academic journals, I appreciate what a thankless, and involved, task this can be at times. Not only do referees give their time to the peer-review process, but it often goes unacknowledged. It is with thanks that Table 3 lists those referees that have supplied reviews. At JoM we operate an open peer-review system where there is no anonymity. We believe that this facilitates open, honest, reviews, although as with any peer-review variant, it is open to abuse.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Editorial Board (Table 4). The board has two components; academics and professional cartographers. Members of the academic component have provided timely and reliable reviews that make the task of editing a wide range of material much easier. In addition (and as noted above), Dr Dick Berg is now the Editor of the Student Edition. Members of the cartographic panel have expanded considerably over the last year and I am grateful for their support (old and new members). This is a particularly important aspect of the review process and ensures that map output reaches a satisfactory standard. In many cases there is a significant improvement in the quality of maps, yet the reviewers remain pragmatic as to the expectations and capabilities of authors. I sincerely believe that JoM provides considerable “value added”.

Finally thanks are extended to Mike Brown (web editor), Samantha Harrison (typesetting) and Carlos Grohmann (typesetting) for their assistance behind the scenes.

It is with pleasure that I can conclude this editorial summarising JoM’s activities for 2005-2007. During this period it has been exciting, frustrating and hard work, but above all thoroughly rewarding. I sincerely hope the next 3 years will see more of the same!

Referee	Institution
Dr Aittola	University of Oulu
Dr Auler	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
Dr Ballas	University of Sheffield
Prof Bennett	Bournemouth University
Dr Brunetti	ISAC-CNR Institute of Bologna
Prof Carling	University of Southampton
Dr Carr	Queen Mary and Westfield, University of London
Dr Cole	Coventry University
Dr Clark	University of California, Santa Barbara
Dr DeSimone	Vermont Geological Survey
Prof De Waele	Università di Cagliari
Dr Dunlop	University of Ulster
Dr Fairbairn	University of Newcastle
Dr Ford	McMaster University
Prof Gelabert	Universitat de les Illes Balears
Dr Glasser	University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Prof Goodchild	University of California, Santa Barbara
Dr Hättestrand	Stockholm University
Prof Hitzman	Colorado School of Mines
Prof Inbar	University of Haifa
Dr Jansson	Stockholm University
Mr Jarrett	Middlesex University
Dr Knight	University of Essex
Professor Komar	Oregon State University
Mr Long	Geological Survey of Ireland
Dr Lopez	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos
Dr Malcolm	Western Michigan University
Dr Marsico	Università degli Studi di Bari
Prof Maugeri	UNIMI
Mr McCulloch	West Virginia Geological Survey
Mr Merritt	British Geological Survey
Professor Mills	Tennessee Technological University
Dr Mills	University of Newcastle
Dr Monmonier	Syracuse University
Mr Morgans	Faber Naunsell
Dr Munro-Stasiuk	Kent State University
Dr Nelson	Illinois State University
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Table 3 – continued from previous page

Referee	Institution
Dr Noland	Imperial College, University of London
Dr Olson	Michigan State University
Dr Perault	Lynchburg College
Dr Peterson	University of East Anglia
Dr Piotrowski	Aarhus University
Mr Radford	Birmingham City Council
Dr Ross	Natural Resources Canada
Dr Salway	University College London
Prof Schurer	University of Essex
Dr Serrat	Universitat de Barcelona
Dr Sharpe	Natural Resources Canada
Dr Shepherd	Leeds University
Dr Shilts	Illinois State Geological Survey
Dr Stokes	Durham University
Dr Tanner	University of Glasgow
Dr Tomer	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dr Uttal	Northwestern University
Prof Van Vuren	University of Leeds
Dr Weber	University of Alabama

Table 3 Referees at the Journal of Maps 2005-2007

Editorial Panel

Dr Simon Batterbury, University of Melbourne
Professor Chris Clark, University of Sheffield
Professor Keith Clarke, University of California, Santa Barbara
Dr Timothy Fisher, University of Toledo
Dr Mark Harrower, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Professor Dr Menno-Jan Kraak, International Institute of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation
Dr Dan Jacobson, University of Calgary
Professor Dave Martin, University of Southampton
Dr Randall Orndorff, USGS
Professor Dr Claudio Riccomini, University of São Paulo
Dr Steve Rice, Loughborough University
Dr Ken Tanaka, USGS
Dr James Voogt, University of Western Ontario
Dr Jeff Wilson, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Dr Mike Wood, University of Aberdeen
Professor Chris Wright, Middlesex University

Cartographic Editors

Graham Allsopp, University of Sheffield
Patricia Connor, University of Western Ontario
Ian Gulley, University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Sally Hermansen, University of British Columbia
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 4 Academic and Cartographic Editors

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