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07) Editor's report

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Printed on: 04 Sep 2014

Topic:

Topic author: aoren

Subject: 07) Editor's report

Posted on: 08 Feb 2009 22:50:56

Message:

About the publication of the proceedings of the past ISSLR meetings, first the good news, then the not-so-good news

The good news relates to the proceedings of the Salt Lake City meeting. At the time of the meeting I announced that, with the help of the authors and reviewers, we would try to have all material for the proceedings sent to the publisher by the end of November 2008; we even succeeded to have everything ready in the beginning of November.

I was assisted by two members of the local committee: Dave Naftz and Wayne Wurtsbaugh. All manuscripts were first checked and formatted by me (in a few cases even completely rewritten if the language needed drastic improvement, which was the case for 4-5 manuscripts). Then each manuscript was assigned to one of the three members of the editorial committee who read the paper and in most cases had it checked by one outside reviewer as well. After the authors had revised the papers based on the comments received from the editorial team and the reviewers, they were finally accepted by the responsible editor (or rejected, as happened in one or two cases). I then checked the manuscripts for consistency of style (or at least, to the extent possible; I am aware of some minor inconsistencies e.g. in the ways units are given: g/l or g l-1 etc.), and then forwarded everything to Patsy Palacios who produces the volume for the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Natural Resources Research Library, published in conjunction with the Utah State University College of Natural Resources.

We have a total of 262 typeset pages:

- Prefaces by the team of editors and by FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake
- 29 Full manuscripts
- 21 Extended abstracts of one page, sometimes two pages.

The scientific level of the material is very high, to my opinion.

All papers were based on lectures and posters presented in Salt Lake City with two exceptions: one paper was added by Wayne Wurtsbaugh on a topic not presented at the meeting, and I added a paper that belonged to the proceedings of the Perth meeting (see below), was accepted by the editor (Jacob John) but subsequently was "de-accepted" by Koen Martens, the chief editor of Hydrobiologia.

Three weeks ago I received the page proofs of the first typeset version. There were quite a few minor problems; in the past weekend I checked the second version, and there remain only few problems to be corrected and a few adjustments to be made.

I expect that by the end of February or in the beginning of March the proceedings can be online, as an open access volume. Many of the illustrations will be in color.

A printed version will be produced as well, which will be for sale at a relatively low price (about \$ 35-40, details will follow). Reproduction of color plates in the printed version is at the expense of the authors; some authors are willing to pay for the cost of color plates, others have indicated that their figures should be printed B/W in the hard copy version.

As soon as the proceedings book will be online I will post an announcement both on the Board forum as well as on the ISSLR web site. I am sure that everyone will be happy with the result of our efforts.

Thus far the good news!

The "not-so-good" news: the proceedings of the Perth meeting are still not published. After Jacob John had waited for nearly three years with the processing of the manuscripts, he had accepted a number of papers and he sent these to the chief editor of Hydrobiologia, Koen Martens, who instead of accepting the papers and producing a special issue of the journal, decided to have them reviewed once more. Some papers (including one of my two manuscripts) were rejected, others returned to the authors for another round of revision. All this is again being handled by Jacob John in his usual extremely slow way. The editor of Hydrobiologia had indicated that he will only accept the complete package of manuscripts, not individual papers sent by the authors, so Jacob may well be waiting for the last revision to be submitted. I intend to write him a letter and ask him what the current situation is. I will update the Board as soon as possible. In any case it is clear that the proceedings of Salt Lake City will be published long before those of the Perth meeting held three years earlier, that they will be far more complete, and that their scientific level will be no less than those of the Perth papers that finally will make it to the pages of Hydrobiologia (probably around the time of our next congress???). At the time of the Perth meeting the Board and the general assembly has given full mandate to Jacob John to handle the publication of the symposium proceedings. I am sure that all those who voted in favor when the decision was made at the general assembly have regretted their decision, but there is nothing I can do to speed up the process.

Replies:

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 09 Feb 2009 03:52:25

Message:

I just received the following information from Jacob John:

.... Everything is finalised . The volume has gone into printing. I met with the chief editor here in Perth and he has sent the papers to the printer . The printer then has contacted me regarding redoing few diagrams for some papers I have been urging the authors to that. The Chief editor has been very strict in not accepting any review papers . Even some original papers with new information have been rejected as descriptive papers are no more accepted . He has applied the same criteria as normal Hydrobiologia journal to our papers for the conference. I had no previous information regarding these criteria at all . But I can see his point of view as the impact factor has gone up since he took up the editorship and the board of the journal has instructed him to strictly apply the criteria . For me this is the end of an unhappy thankless affair. But I believe we still have some very good papers- 13 of them . Convey my thanks to the board of the society , Hopefully by April the journal should be out . All the authors should get proof copies .

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 11 Feb 2009 04:10:57

Message:

My comments about the editing of the Perth conference are best left unsaid. But the 13 authors will be ahhpy to know that progress is being made: I just got an email from Springer telling me my paper was being prepared for publication and asking me to fill in a complicated form, signing my life away.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 23 Feb 2009 21:05:40

Message:

For those board members who have not contributed chapters to the Salt Lake City proceedings: the page proofs of the proceedings volume are now accessible online at

<http://www.cnr.usu.edu/quinney/htm/publications/nrei>

and authors have been invited to send me their corrections no later than the end of this week.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Mar 2009 07:10:58

Message:

I am pleased that I can close agenda item 07 - Editor's report with good news only:

1. Finally the proceedings of the Perth meeting have been published; the number of papers is regrettably small, but they are available online at the Hydrobiologia web site since about two weeks ago.
 2. The almost final version of the Salt Lake City symposium proceedings is available online for open access. There may be a few more minor changes in the coming days, but I expect that by the end of the week the book will be sent to the publisher. I am very happy both with the number of contributions (51 chapters + extended abstracts, 2 prefaces) and with their quality.
 3. The print version will be available at a very attractive price: \$ 25 for shipping within the US, \$ 30 for shipping abroad. We already have orders for over 60 print copies, so it is a "bestseller".
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Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Mar 2009 07:12:02

Message:

And not to forget: many thanks to co-editors Dave Naftz and Wayne Wurtsbaugh and to Patsy Palacios who did all the technical work and much more.

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