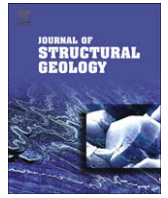




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Editorial

30 Years of the Journal of Structural Geology



We wish the readers of the Journal of Structural Geology a happy, successful and healthy 2009.

This year 2009 is a special year for the Journal; the first issue was published in 1979, and we are now 30 years old, grown from an initial four volumes per year to the present twelve.

The previous decade has seen enormous changes in the Journal because of the onset and advance of the internet, email and electronic publishing. The way we published the Journal even ten years ago, on our 20th anniversary, seems unimaginable now, and to reside in almost another world. The advantages of these changes are striking when we think of the ease and speed of communication, the downloading of papers from the internet, the accessibility of digital libraries and databases, and the ease of searching for references, as compared to thirty years ago. All these new tools are a great benefit that may bring structural geology and all of science forward more rapidly than in the past. On the other hand, we may have lost some perspective with this positive change, such as the slower pace of quiet thinking about a problem, reflective drafting of a map or profile section, and the careful checking and polishing of text. All this threatens to be swept away in the urge to publish frequently and rapidly. It is our task as Editors, and our joint responsibility as Editors and Authors, to preserve quality and care in an age where we witness the birth of new human verbal and visual interactions through the digital world.

What concerns us even more than technological changes in publishing are the advances in our science over the last thirty years. We have seen new techniques appear such as EBSD, tomography

and advanced 3D computer and analogue modelling. We have a much better understanding of the relationships between geometry, deformation, stresses and rock behaviour now. Yet, we have more to learn and we still must deal with the old problems such as having a structure to examine but not in its formative conditions, or relating the complexity and uncertainties of natural systems to well controlled model and analogue systems. As a result, much important science remains to be achieved.

Since we wish to celebrate the birthday of the Journal in a fitting manner, we plan to bring the important changes and advances in structural geology to the fore with a series of review papers that are written by special invitation for the 30th anniversary of the Journal, and which will appear in the Journal in the course of this year.

We wish all authors and readers of the Journal stimulating reading, and the Journal many more successful years.

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