

ACS324.1 JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY EDITORIAL BOARD

Introductions

The JEQ Editorial Board met on Wednesday, 15 Nov. 2006, in Indianapolis, IN. Present at the meeting were:

K.A. Barbarick, ASA Editor-in-Chief	K. Barhaust
S. Logsdon, SSSA Editor-in-Chief	R. Cook
C. Roberts, CSSA, Editor-in-Chief	Z. Dou
G.M. Pierzynski, Editor	K. Jayachandran
Susan Ernst, Managing Editor	J. Kovar
Frances Katz, Publications Director	B. Lerch
Elizabeth Gebhardt, Assistant Editor	M. Russelle
Technical Editors:	K. Sajwank
D.L. Corwin	K. Scheckel
Associate Editors:	E. Smolen
S. Brown	M. Thompson
	R. Zartman

Editorial Board Update—Gary M. Pierzynski

Editor Gary Pierzynski thanked retiring associate editors and the entire Editorial Board for their service to JEQ. Those retiring from the Editorial Board are Jay Gan, Steve Prior, Boushan Xing, Mark Coyne, Jim Houppis, Michael Russelle, and Mark David. Associate editors reappointed for a second term are Craig Just, Jo Smith, Jodi Shann, Paul Illmer, Weilin Huang, Tim Clough, Greg Lawrence, Robert Hubbard, Steve Siciliano, Nanthi Bolan, Robert Lerch, and Enzo Lombi. New associate editors are Robert Cook, Chris Green, Phil Haygarth, Peter Vadas, Greg Evanylo, Catherine Keller, Dave Long, Robert Darmody, John Seaman, Jim Jawitz, Jose-Julio Ortega-Calvo, Fien Degryse, and John Schmidt.

Magdi Selim and Erik Smolders served their first year as Technical Editors in 2006. The Editorial Board was reminded that Editor Gary Pierzynski and Technical Editors Nick Basta, Dennis Corwin, and Bill Hickey will be retiring at the end of 2007. Ken Barbarick described the process by which the new editor would be selected. Applications will be accepted in the first half of 2007 with a formal announcement forthcoming.

Managing Editor's Report—Susan Ernst

Production

Work for Volume 35 of JEQ is almost complete. The number of total pages for 2006 is more than those published last year (104 more). A summary of papers published, total pages, etc., for 2006 compared with the six previous volumes is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of papers published in JEQ, 2000 to 2006.

Contribution	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Reviews and Analyses	5	2	4	5	1	3	3
Technical Reports	208	198	230	251	195	227	210
Environmental Issues	0	2	4	1	3	1	3
Short Communications	9	6	13	9	7	5	5
Symposia	30	30	5	0	35	14	28
Letters/Replies	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Book Reviews	27	30	54	27	15	22	28
Total pages	2512	2408	2428	2480	2168	2262	2136
	Average length per article						
Reviews and Analyses	12.4	32.5	19	11.1	11.6	14.2	8.3
Technical Reports	9.6	9.5	9.1	8.6	8.3	8.3	7.8
Environmental Issues	—	9.5	8.5	9.8	5.8	12.3	6.7
Short Communications	5.8	5.0	5.2	5.1	3.3	4.4	4.4
Symposia	9.7	9.6	7.6	NA	8.3	10.3	8.5

The 2006 issues of JEQ contained the following total published pages: No. 1, 416; No. 2, 304; No. 3, 284; No. 4, 680; No. 5, 344; and No. 6, 484, for an average of 418 pages per issue.

The journal issues were completed and mailed as follows: No. 1, 11 January; No. 2, 7 March; No. 3, 16 May; No. 4, 22 July; No. 5, 28 September; and No. 6, 8 November.

To date we have 9 technical reports and 1 review and analysis paper scheduled for the No. 1, 2007 issue.

International Submissions. Many papers published in JEQ are international (non-U.S.). Table 2 gives the data for the 2000–2006 issues.

Reprint Booklets. During the last year we sold booklets of symposia papers published in JEQ. A total of 74 Sustainable Land Application booklets were sold, and 257 Greenhouse Gas Symposium booklets were sold.

Time Analysis. The Manuscript Tracker system lets us look at a time analysis report. We see the days with reviewer has remained at about 30 days over the last few years. Days in revision has steadily decreased and is now at 36 days. Days with the AE has also decreased and is at 118 days. Total time to a decision is averaging 131 days, just over 4 months. The Editorial Board should be commended for improving times in review and should continue to strive for even more time efficiency.

Tables. Author are sending in tables more and more often that are not usable. During review/revision please remind authors that we require tables created in Word using the table format. No tabs or spaces are allowed. If we receive manuscripts with unacceptable tables, they are held until the author provides new tables. Thank you for your help.

Electronic Version of JEQ. JEQ continues to be published electronically by HighWire Press, Palo Alto, CA, available at <http://jeq.scijournals.org/>. Tables 3 and 4 show the number of active online subscriptions for the A-C-S journals on the HighWire site and the usage statistics, January–September 2006.

Executive Summaries. Dr. Nora Ransom is our associate editor in charge of coordinating all the summaries for each issue of JEQ. The number of summaries has been steadily increasing. The averages for the last few years are as follows: 2001, 75%; 2002, 84%; 2003, 97%; 2004, 98%; 2005, 100%; 2006, 100%.

Circulation

Subscribers can choose either print, electronic, CD, or any combination of these. See Table 5 for the numbers of each, for the last 5 years. Note that the total subscribers for 2006 to date is 2154. This is a net loss of 159 compared with last year.

Recommend JEQ to your librarian by downloading the form found at website: http://www.asa-cssa-ssa.org/pdf/2007_subscrip_rates.pdf.

Table 2. Percentage of papers published in JEQ submitted from outside the USA, 2000 to 2006.

Issue	Percent international						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	%						
Jan.-Feb.	60	41	43	22	43	20	40
Mar.-Apr.	32	38	59	40	35	53	39
May-June	48	64	59	33	45	44	33
July-Aug.	49	34	13	39	40	39	26
Sept.-Oct.	33	30	51	33	46	37	48
Nov.-Dec.	28	41	57	46	31	38	35
Avg.	42	41	47	36	40	38	37
7-year overall avg. 40%							

Journal/Research Promotion

Sara Uttech, Program Manager–Communications, is in charge of the journal production programs at our office. She changed her methods and now pitches our research directly to the PIOs (public information officers at agencies/universities) who then develop the Press Releases and send it out to the media. Note that the Science in Action (SIA) program will end at the end of 2006.

These agencies/institutions all wrote press releases about our journal research: USDA-ARS, University of California-Riverside, Virginia Tech, Penn State, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Texas A&M University, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, University of Arizona. We had additional PIO and media pickups for our Press Releases related to the World Congress of Soil Science, our Annual Meetings, and Awards/Scholarships/Fellow. We submitted these through EurekAlert and Newswise.

Editorial Comments

Manuscript Processing. Thank you to the associate editors for help regarding the technical aspects of manuscripts. Any help with style is also appreciated, especially with the References. AEs do not need to do the work, but rather ask authors to format that section according to our style manual. You can refer authors to the instructions to authors online at <http://jeq.scijournals.org/misc/ifora.shtml> and the Publications Handbook and Style Manual at www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/publications/style/.

Printing and Typesetting. Our printer and typesetter underwent reorganization in 2006. The journal is now typeset at Dartmouth Journal Services, Waterbury, VT. The printing is at Sheridan Press, Hanover, PA. Our contract is due to expire the end of 2007.

Acknowledgments. Thank you to Gary Pierzynski, editor; the technical editors and associate editors; Elizabeth Gebhardt, assistant editor; Meg Ipsen, editorial assistant; and Keith Lovejoy, reprints.

Comments from the Editor—Gary Pierzynski

Status of Manuscripts and Summary of Published Papers

The number of submissions in 2006 was much higher than the previous year because of the use of the “release without

Table 3. Number of active, online subscriptions to ASA–CSSA–SSSA journals.

Journal	Total number of active subscriptions		
	2004	2005	2006
Agron. J.	600	719	693
Crop Sci.	671	766	748
JEQ	507	594	603
SSSAJ	833	972	982
VZJ	665 (includes 389 free)	385	432

Table 4. Online (HighWire) journal usage statistics, January–September 2006.†

Journal	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Avg.	
	Full	PDF	Full	PDF	Full	PDF	Full	PDF	Full	PDF	Full	PDF	Full	PDF	Full	PDF	Full	PDF
Agron. J.	39,840	14,903	34,211	13,610	53,602	17,028	41,321	15,233	36,219	12,677	34,382	12,667	31,196	13,073	29,569	14,350	300,340	113,541
Crop Sci.	60,832	23,265	53,238	24,649	79,041	26,232	65,206	21,579	57,894	21,892	52,631	20,326	53,196	21,953	61,434	20,921	483,472	180,817
SSSAJ	54,213	19,255	49,677	18,844	79,578	24,770	60,643	18,591	52,303	17,187	48,416	16,233	39,992	14,879	44,328	19,758	429,150	149,517
JEQ	51,290	16,204	46,843	16,649	70,481	20,297	50,781	16,600	47,027	15,082	43,694	12,861	41,959	14,287	43,819	15,833	395,894	127,813
VZJ	8,300	3,519	7,598	3,844	11,712	4,621	9,318	4,634	11,165	4,342	10,429	4,148	8,560	3,546	10,180	4,727	77,262	33,381

† Includes crawlers.

Table 5. Summary of subscribers for JEQ, 2002–2006.

Version	No. of subscribers				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Print	1961	1826	1600	1401	1180
Print and electronic	149	194	206	241	252
Print and CD	161	169	168	153	144
Print, CD, electronic	41	57	58	65	60
CD	52	50	53	65	73
Electronic	89	129	156	202	239
Electronic and CD	93	118	173	186	201
Multi-site licenses†	–	–	–	–	5
Total subscribers	2546	2543	2414	2313	2154

† Monsanto, USA; Syngenta, Germany; Canadian Ag Library, Canada; Canada Inst. for STI, Canada; USDA-ARS-AFM-APD-AB, USA.

review” option by the Editor, Technical Editors, and Associate Editors. Prior to 2006, such papers were returned to the authors before they were assigned a registration number and they were not counted as submissions. Overall, there were 566 submissions in 2006 and 103 were returned without review (76 by the Editor, 18 by the Technical Editors, and 9 by the Associate Editors). That means that 463 manuscripts were forwarded for detailed review. That is slightly lower than the 455 in 2003, 485 in 2004, and 487 in 2005.

The acceptance rate has been fairly steady in recent years. The values are 43% in 2001, 49% in 2002, 45% in 2003, 48% in 2004, and 51.9% in 2005. The data are insufficient to provide an acceptance rate for 2006 as many papers submitted in 2006 are still in review. However, the acceptance rate will be much lower in 2006 because of the inclusion of papers that were released without review.

Symposia Proceedings and Book Reviews

Symposia proceedings have become an important part of the journal and the JEQ editor is constantly looking for proposals related to publication of symposia proceedings. The papers published as symposium proceedings are reviewed in the same way as volunteered papers. The purpose is to keep the quality of these papers at a high level. Often a single associate editor will be assigned to work with symposium organizers to edit all of the papers from a single symposium.

Table 6. Summary of number of technical papers published in each subject matter category from 2001 to 2006. Papers published as part of a symposium series are not included here.

Category	Vol. 35	Vol. 34	Vol. 33	Vol. 32	Vol. 31	Vol. 30
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Atmospheric Pollutants and Trace Gases	14	14	11	16	18	13
Biodegradation and Bioremediation	6	12	12	17	9	15
Ecological Risk Assessment	3	13	8	7	10	8
Ecosystem Restoration	3	3	5	9	6	2
Ground Water Quality	11	9	7	15	6	16
Heavy Metals in the Environment	23	19	31	37	25	29
Landscape and Watershed Processes	16	15	9	19	21	15
Organic Compounds in the Environment	19	21	30	26	22	25
Plant and Environment Interactions	8	5	11	18	16	7
Surface Water Quality	39	34	35	37	24	36
Vadose Zone Processes and Chemical Transport	9	8	9	8	7	10
Waste Management	47	28	47	30	20	38
Wetlands and Aquatic Processes	11	17	10	12	12	13

Table 7. JEQ journal rankings 1997–2005, environmental Science category, 140 journals.

Year	Total cites (rank)	Impact factor (rank)	No. articles (rank)
1997	4147 (8)	2.069 (9)	214 (13)
1998	4836 (9)	2.145 (10)	195 (14)
1999	5433 (9)	2.357 (7)	248 (11)
2000	5434 (10)	1.485 (23)	249 (11)
2001	5407 (12)	1.155 (47)	122 (33)
2002	6891 (11)	1.868 (17)	199 (16)
2003	7815 (11)	1.682 (28)	266 (14)
2004	7937 (12)	1.617 (33)	255 (15)
2005	8939 (12)	2.121 (24)	238 (18)

Book review submissions remain strong. One of the strengths of JEQ is its book review section and emphasis will continue to be placed on obtaining good quality book reviews. The Editorial Board is congratulated on their willingness to provide a number of reviews. Dr. Mary Beth Kirkham is the associate editor in charge for book reviews and she has done an excellent job of finding reviewers and increasing the return rate for solicited reviews. There were a total of 27 book reviews published in JEQ in 2006.

Subject Matter Categories

Papers have been published under specified subject matter categories since the first issue of 1991. The titles of subject matter categories can change periodically and several new categories were started in 1999. The categories have not changed since 2000.

Waste management surpassed surface water quality as the top category in 2006, followed by surface water quality, heavy metals in the environment, and organic compounds in the environment. Biodegradation and bioremediation, ecological risk assessment, and wetlands and aquatic processes saw substantial decreases. See Table 6 for the number of technical papers published in each subject matter category for 2006 compared with previous years.

JEQ Impact Factor

Gary Pierzynski presented the impact factor data (Table 7). JEQ had a large increase in the impact factor for 2005 as compared to recent years and is as high as it has been since 1999. Our rank in total cites remained the same and we declined somewhat in the number of articles. The impact factor is a positive trend and it is hoped it will continue into the future. The 2006 values will be available in June or July of 2007.

Manuscript Tracker Update

JEQ has required all manuscripts to be submitted electronically since 1 Jan. 2004 and the transition has been smooth. The use of Manuscript Tracker has helped to improve review times (see Table 8), although a concerted effort by associate editors to stay current with their manuscripts has also helped. The Editorial Board was congratulated on reducing the review times and encouraged to remain vigilant on their papers.

Table 8. JEQ time analysis 2003–2006, as of 13 Oct. 2006.

Measure	Year		
	2004	2005	2006
	— avg. no. of days —		
Editor to TE	1.0	1.1	1.1
TE to AE	3.5	3.7	3.9
Assign reviewer	15.5	15.9	13.0
Days with reviewer	32.2	33.2	29.4
First recommendation	111.7	89.6	72.0
Final decision	127.8	131.3	67.7

Table 9. Survey results from accepted papers (*n* = 71). SA = strongly agree, A = agree, D = disagree, SD = strongly disagree.†

Query	SA	A	D	SD
— % of responses —				
My manuscript was edited in a timely fashion	43	46	9	1
The reviewers were technically competent	53	47	0	0
The reviewers' comments were helpful	66	34	0	0
The reviewers' comments were respectful	62	37	1	1
The AE or TE provided clear instructions for revisions	72	25	3	0
The quality of editing was comparable to non-society journals	56	40	1	3
Manuscript Tracker accommodated the review process	68	31	1	0
	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>	
Would you recommend JEQ to a colleague?	98%		2%	

† Membership of corresponding authors: ASA 31%, CSSA 3%, SSSA 36%, none 58%.

The 2006 numbers are preliminary and will change as the remaining 2006 papers work their way through the system.

Some additional changes in Manuscript Tracker were made in 2006 including the addition of another list of choices for reviewers pertaining to the originality or novelty of a paper and manuscript disposition options for associate editors, technical editors, and the editor allowing for the release of a paper without review. This latter change will cause the acceptance rate to decrease because many papers released without review prior to 2006 by the Editor were not assigned registration numbers and are not counted as submitted papers.

JEQ Author Survey Results

A survey was developed early in 2004 to obtain feedback on the performance of all society journals. Authors are given the opportunity to respond to the survey when they receive final word on the disposition of their papers. Tables 9 and 10 summarize the results for 2006. Relatively few responses have been obtained, so the data must be viewed with some caution. Review time and instructions for revisions appear to be the areas needing improvement for papers that were rejected.

SI Units

Gary Pierzynski reminded the Editorial Board that we need to be more vigilant about SI units. Common units that authors will use but are not allowed in the SI system are % as a unit of concentration, ppm, ppb, meq/100 g, CFU/100 g, µg/g, equivalents or milliequivalents, normality, and g/cm³. Associate editors should work with authors to ensure use of SI units. See chapter 7 of the style manual for more information (www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/publications/style/).

Table 10. Survey results from rejected papers (*n* = 14). SA = strongly agree, A = agree, D = disagree, SD = strongly disagree.†

Query	SA	A	D	SD
— % of responses —				
My manuscript was edited in a timely fashion	21	64	7	1
The reviewers were technically competent	29	50	14	7
The reviewers' comments were helpful	7	50	21	21
The reviewers' comments were respectful	21	50	14	14
The AE or TE provided clear instructions for revisions	50	21	21	7
The quality of editing was comparable to non-society journals	9	55	27	9
Manuscript Tracker accommodated the review process	21	64	7	7
	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>	
Would you recommend JEQ to a colleague?	75%		25%	

† Membership of corresponding authors: ASA 3%, CSSA 12%, SSSA 18%, none 62%.

Announcements

Gary Pierzynski reminded the Editorial Board that he is soliciting nominations for the Editor's Excellence in Review Awards. Six awards will be given out for 2006 in addition to the Outstanding Associate Editor Award.

Other Items

Process for Selecting JEQ Editor. Gary Pierzynski will finish his second three-year term at the end of 2007. Anyone interested should respond to the call for editor that will be published in *CSA News*.

JEQ Redesign. Elizabeth Gebhardt, JEQ assistant editor, presented information on how we will implement a new design for the journal. She gave examples of various designs that demonstrated type fonts, two vs. three columns, running heads, cover designs, and so forth. The board discussed what they liked and now Headquarters can use the board's input when planning the redesign. The new look of JEQ will debut sometime in 2007.

JEQ Publishing Fee. There is currently a flat publication fee for JEQ. A change may be necessary since page length of articles is becoming longer. We need a deterrent for long papers. The board discussed different pricing structures including a flat per-page charge, and a large charge for articles more than seven pages. Gary Pierzynski will continue discussion via email during the first part of 2007 to find a recommendation for the Budget and Finance committee at their spring meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

—Gary M. Pierzynski, Editor,
and Susan Ernst, Managing Editor

doi:10.2134/agronj2006.0125q