

Journal of Geodesy

https://doi.org/10.82507/iag-travaux2025_jog

Editor-in-Chief: Peiliang Xu (Japan)
Assistant Editor-in-Chief: Hansjörg Kutterer (Germany)

Website - <https://link.springer.com/journal/190>

Journal of Geodesy (J Geod) is an international journal to advance and promote the science of geodesy and its related inter-disciplinary sciences at its highest scientific standard. As the official scientific journal of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), it publishes research articles, review papers and short notes on a monthly basis. Its publishing company is Springer-Verlag, based on an agreement with IAG.

The Editor-in-Chief (EiC) is responsible for the scientific content, special issues and daily management of the journal and to report relevant issues, problems and activities to the IAG Executive Committee. The EiC and the Assistant-Editor-in-Chief (AEiC) handle manuscripts on a one-to-one basis and make the final decision on whether to accept a manuscript for publication, with the advice and recommendation by one of the Editorial Board (EB) members. There are currently 34 EB members from 16 countries and regions, as listed below:

C. Abbondanza (USA), J. Benveniste (Italy), J. Bosy (Poland), K. Chanard (France), A.J. Chen (USA), M. Crespi (Italy), O. Francis (Luxembourg), A. Klos (Poland), A. Kodabandeh (Australia), C. Kotsakis (Greece), A. Krypiak-Gregorczyk (Poland), A. Escapa (Spain), S. Glaser (Germany), B. Gunter (USA), U. Hugentobler (Germany), C. Hwang (Taiwan), F. Lemoine (USA), B. Li (China), X. Li (China), V. Michel (Germany), F. Nievinski (Brazil), P. Novak (Czech Republic), R. Odolinski (New Zealand), J. Paziewski (Poland), H. Peter (Germany), M. Reguzzoni (Italy), M. Schindelegger (Germany), V. Schwieger (Germany), Y. Shen (China), M. Shirzaei (USA), B. Soja (Switzerland), Y. Yokota (Japan), T. Xu (China) and B. Zhang (China).

J Geod uses the Editorial Manager (EM), a web-based peer review system, for manuscript submission, to handle the review process of manuscripts, to record all the information on each manuscript through the whole process from submission to the final decision and beyond (if any), including all the email exchanges among all the relevant parties (the EiC, the AEiC, authors, handling editors, reviewers and the Publisher). The EM warrants the processing of each manuscript most transparent and helps reduce the turnaround time. In addition, the EM has been updated with automated workflows to check plagiarism, for example, and to record authorship change requests (if any).

J Geod may publish special issues on topics of general interest for the geodetic community, if such topics are timely, of immediate importance and of interest to a broad readership.

We may like to inform that although J Geod used to publish book reviews, with the IAG Secretary General serving as the book review editor, the IAG Bureau decided not to publish book reviews any more in J Geod at its Bureau Meeting in December 2024.

1 Editorial status and statistics from 2020 to 2024

Editorial status and statistics of J Geod will be briefly summarized in the following, including the Impact Factor (IF), statistics on submissions and acceptances, review statistics and turnaround time. The IF of J Geod is 3.9 for 2023 and belongs to the first quartile in the ranking category of Geochemistry and Geophysics, according to the Journal Citation Reports by Clarivate. More information on the IF, ranking and percentile can be found in Table 1. Nevertheless, in the category of Remote Sensing, J Geod is in Q2 with a ranking of 19/63. The 2024 IF is expected to be published in June 2025.

Table 1. The IF and ranking information according to the Journal Citation Reports by Clarivate

year	IF	ranking	quartile	percentile
2023	3.9	12/101	Q1	88.6
2022	4.4	15/87	Q1	83.3
2021	4.8	16/87	Q1	82.2
2020	4.3	15/88	Q1	83.5
2019	4.8	8/85	Q1	91.2

The statistics on manuscript submissions and acceptances are summarized in Table 2. The total number of manuscripts we received each year remained more or less steady. The countries with most submissions remained steady as well; these are China, Germany, the United States of America, Poland, Iran, Turkey, Canada, Australia and Egypt. The acceptance rate basically did not change either in the past five years and was slightly under 30 percent, though the acceptance rate in 2023 was little higher.

Table 2. The submitted and accepted manuscripts per year for 2020 to 2024

year	number of submitted manuscripts	number of accepted manuscripts	acceptance rate
2024	346	100	27.6
2023	328	105	30.7
2022	347	92	29.1
2021	334	102	29.5
2020	387	110	28.9

The turnaround times taken for completing the review processes of manuscripts have been a concern for researchers, which are summarized in Table 3. As can be seen from Table 3, the average number of days to have the first decisions have been substantially improved to within one month. In fact, the median number of days to reach the first decisions is only 10 and 13 days for 2024 and 2023, respectively. The average number of days to finally accept manuscripts for publication does not change much over the past five years. From our experience, this may be explained by the fact

that authors often tell us that there are (too) many constructive comments, need more time to revise and request for extension to revise their manuscripts. In some cases, authors may ask for the second extension. This should clearly indicate that authors highly appreciate the high quality and valuable constructiveness of reviews of our Journal, thanks to the great effort by all our reviewers, though the average number of days to accept manuscripts for publication remains high. Actually, for manuscripts that are judged not to be suitable for publication, the average number of days to decline manuscripts was about two months from 2020 to 2022, though some improvement could be seen for 2023 and 2024.

Table 3. The statistics of turnaround times (average number of days) on the manuscripts for 2020 to 2024

year	submission to first decision	submission to accept	submission to reject
2024	20.4	290	55
2023	23.6	332	40
2022	84.0	311	64
2021	90.0	290	78
2020	82.0	258	72

As for the review process, we sent out 1441 and 1578 review invitations to 818 and 848 reviewers in 2023 and 2024, respectively. Each manuscript was taken care with an average of 4.4 and 4.6 review invitations in 2023 and 2024, respectively. We actually received 842 and 892 positive responses in 2023 and 2024, or roughly about 2.6 positive responses for each manuscript both for 2023 and 2024.

Two special issues were published under the leadership of our former EiC, Prof. J. Kusche, one for CONT17: State-of-the-Art Geodetic VLBI, and the other for Reference Systems in Physical Geodesy, which can be found via the links: <https://link.springer.com/collections/gcbbefdfhg> and <https://link.springer.com/collections/fhbbfjhicd>.

2 The old contents of both Bulletin Géodésique and manuscripta geodaetica

Geodetic historical literature is important treasure for geodesy and related interdisciplinary sciences. As an important work of our team, we initiated the project of making all the old contents of both Bulletin Géodésique (Bull Geod) and manuscripta geodaetica (manus geod) openly available for our geodetic community worldwide and beyond. After the Berlin IAG Executive Committee (EC) meeting in July 2023, we worked hard with the new contact person of Springer, Ms. M. Paul, for materializing this project. As the first result of such an endeavor, we were finally able to upload all the old contents of Bull Geod from the first issue in 1923 and make them available on the website of J Geod by the end of October 2023, thanks to the strong support from Ms. M. Paul and Ms. I. Isaeva at Springer. We are pleased that now all researchers

in our geodetic community and beyond can download any articles published in Bull Geod.

Since manus geod is part of J Geod by definition, we continued our effort and tried hard in order to bring all the old contents of manus geod available for our geodetic community as well. We were not as fortunate as in the case of Bull Geod. Springer found out that there were no electronic documents nor hardcopies of manus geod. As a result, we initiated the project of scanning all the old contents of manus geod, which was reported to the IAG EC meeting in San Francisco on 10 December 2023. Both the IAG EC and Bureau were very supportive of this scanning project. The IAG Bureau approved our request of 3300 USD/Eur, as estimated by Springer, for scanning all the old contents of manus geod at its Meeting of 8 July 2024. Thanks to the strong support of our contact person of Springer, Ms. M. Paul, we soon formally started this scanning project on the following day.

Because Springer did not have the hardcopies of manus geod and after we contacted our old friend, Prof. N. Sneeuw at Stuttgart University, he kindly offered to contribute all the hardcopies of manus geod in their library to the scanning project, with our many thanks also for the strong support by the IAG President, Prof. P. Teunissen, who talked with Prof. N. Sneeuw as well. Even more, the great effort by Ms. G. Casini, the secretary of Prof. N. Sneeuw, finally led to shipping the hardcopies of 20 volumes of manus geod to Springer from Stuttgart for free on 16 August 2024. The project of scanning the old contents of manus geod was partially completed with success by 18 Oct 2024 and all the articles of manus geod were uploaded to the website of J Geod; we gratefully thank Prof. N. Sneeuw, Ms. G. Casini and Stuttgart University for their essential support and generosity, the IAG EC, the IAG Bureau and the IAG Office for their strong support, without which the project of scanning the old contents of manus geod and making them available to our geodetic community worldwide and beyond would have not been successful.

However, due to completely different treatments of the current contents and archives by Springer, there is a pay wall there. As a result, we had a lot of correspondences/discussions and one zoom meeting with Springer. Although Ms. M. Paul made great effort in order to resolve this problem, due to very complicated technical difficulty, Springer still was not able to remove this pay wall. Nevertheless, as an intermediate remedy, Springer offered codes to IAG for freely downloading the articles of manus geod. We will continue to collaborate with Springer to finally resolve the issue of pay wall and make all the old contents of manus geod available in the same manner as those of J Geod and Bull Geod.

3 The IAG Young Author Awards and the Best Reviewer Awards

The IAG Young Authors Award is to draw attention to important contributions published in J Geod by young scientists and to foster excellence in scientific writing. On the basis of suggestions made by the EB members, the EiC provides a shortlist of award candidates to the IAG EC every two years.

The IAG Best Reviewer Award was established about four years ago for recognition of excellent and outstanding contributions by reviewers to J Geod. Based on the recommendations by the EB members, the EiC provides a shortlist of award candidates to the IAG EC every two years, similar to the Young Author Award.

The IAG EC has completed the votings on both the IAG Young Authors Awards and the Best Reviewer Awards for 2023 and 2024 at the IAG EC meeting in Vienna on 26 April 2025. We may like to report that at this Vienna meeting, the IAG EC decided that the EB should select and submit the final list of the Best Reviewer Awardees without any IAG EC voting in the future. The IAG Young Author Awards and the Best Reviewer Awards for 2023 and 2024 will be presented during the 2025 IAG Scientific Assembly in Rimini in Italy.

4 On-going activities

Thanks to the proposal by and idea exchanges with our former EiC, Prof. J. Kusche, we suggested to the IAG EC meeting last April in Vienna to raise the age limit to 37 for the IAG Young Author Award, if a young researcher can provide solid evidence that she or he takes half a year of maternal/paternal leave for each of two years. The IAG EC confirms that this is consistent with the IUGG action plan and will be further discussed, since raising the age limit is involved with the change in the IAG by-laws. We will continue this effort.

To ensure that the nominations for the IAG Young Author Awards and the IAG Best Reviewer Award are fair, we have asked Springer to improve the EM to record the information that is related to these two awards. We hope that this EM issue could be solved in the near future.

Since the pay wall for the articles of manus geod is still there, we will continue to closely work with Springer to finally completely remove the pay wall for the best of our geodetic community worldwide and beyond.

As the official journal of IAG, we will also see what we could do more to support IAG in any way possible in the near future.

Finally, we would like to appreciably thank our former Editor-in-Chief, Prof. J. Kusche, and all the EB members, who completed their two-term services to J Geod in 2023, for all their selfless contributions of invaluable expertise, precious time and great effort. The same gratitude goes to all the reviewers, whose contributions provide a indispensable warrant for the highest possible quality and highest possible standard of J Geod.