

Editor's Message

The Journal of Weather Modification is now hosted by openjournalsystems.com, which specializes in deployment of the Open Journal System software that we use. The Journal has a new domain name, JournalOfWeatherModification.org; however, users should not notice any difference. The Journal and the Weather Modification Association (WMA) websites are now hosted by two different providers. All WMA members should have access to the Journal's site as reader, author, and reviewer users. User-names and passwords have not changed between the old and new Journal sites.

The Journal accepts submissions at anytime of the year and can publish an article online at anytime. The Technical Notes and Correspondence section of the Journal is for papers that do not contain content that can be peer-reviewed such as reports summarizing a operational program, opinion papers on best-practices, and information about weather modification hardware and software. The Science section is for authors wishing to have submissions peer-reviewed. The 'Messages' section contains the President and Editor Message and 'In Memory' notes about people in the weather modification community. Advertisements related to conducting Weather Modification are included in the Advertisement section.

The Journal is small again this year, which follows the recent trend in Journal articles and WMA membership (Gapp *et al.*, 2015). The Editorial Board has been discussing ideas about the future of the Journal and plans to have a proposal to present at the Fall Board meeting. One item being discussed is going to only online publication. Online only publication results in not having library subscriptions and does not commit the association to producing a Journal with articles in it each year. The Journal's annual issue could then contain only the Messages Section if there are no articles ready. Additionally, online only publication would likely mean not having Journal ads; however, the WMA website could still host ads. While there would be reduce cost by not printing hard copies, there is also a lost of income from library subscription and ads with online only publication. The cost related to online publication would be copy editing articles and maintaining the Journal's site. Page charges for articles would hopefully cover these Journal expenses.

An options for the Journal to obtain more material is to create a new section, "Conference Proceedings" where presenters at the annual meeting would submit abstracts, upload their presentation as supplemental material, and provided the opportunity to submit an extended abstract after conclusion of the conference. While submitting an abstract and collecting presentation material is currently being done, using the Journal site would get the material into a searchable, organized archive. Online only publishing of the Journal may well be the only viable option as the free availability of articles on author's websites and in easily accessible, large repositories such as Sci-Hub (Himmelstein *et al.*, 2017), make a paywalled system unworkable. With Sci-Hub providing access for 99.3% of valid incoming requests for articles, the subscription publishing model is becoming unsustainable. Therefore, I believe it is necessary to take the Journal to online only publishing or end the Journal completely.

Dr. David J. Delene
WMA Editor, 2011-17

REFERENCES:

- Gapp, N., Delene, D. J. and W. Seyler, *A Switch to Digital: The Transition of the Journal of Weather Modification to Online Publishing*, Poster presented at the 2015 Annual Weather Modification Association Conference, 22 April 2015 in Fargo, North Dakota, http://aerosol.atmos.und.edu/JournalFinal_150422.pdf.
- Himmelstein DS, Romero AR, McLaughlin SR, Greshake Tzovaras B, Greene CS. (2017) Sci-Hub provides access to nearly all scholarly literature. *PeerJ Preprints* 5:e3100v1 <https://doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.3100v1>