

ACS324.1 JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY EDITORIAL BOARD - 2019 Annual Report

Editor's Report – Ed Gregorich

Editorial Board Meeting – Nov. 13, Hilton Hotel

Editorial Board Update

Tsutomu Ohno and Rod Venterea are finishing their second term as Technical Editors at the end of 2019 and Alex Chow and Rich Farrell will be replacing them for a 3-year term. I thank Stom and Rod for their diligence in providing good, solid oversight of manuscript evaluations. The Associate Editors listed below will complete their terms at the end of the 2019. They have provided excellent oversight of manuscript reviews and conducted comprehensive reviews. Laura Christianson was JEQ Science Communications Editor and provided excellent advice on promoting articles to the scientific community and lay audience. On behalf of the Technical Editors, I thank them for their hard work.

Laure Mamy
Alex Chow
Rota Wagai
Wei Zheng

Zach Easton
Laura E. Christianson
(Science Communications Editor)

JEQ Best Paper Award

This award was established to recognize an outstanding scientific paper published in JEQ in the last three years. A panel comprising the Technical Editors, the incoming Editor, and me, reviewed and evaluated a number of papers. We selected the best paper on the basis of how the manuscript has advanced knowledge in environmental science, the effectiveness of communication, originality, and the scientific impact as measured by number of citations and downloads.

The JEQ Best Paper for 2018 is: ***Assessing the Yield and Load of Contaminants with Stream Order: Would Policy Requiring Livestock to Be Fenced Out of High-Order Streams Decrease Catchment Contaminant Loads?*** R.W. McDowell, N. Cox and T.H. Snelder (2017) 46:1038–1047.
doi:10.2134/jeq2017.05.0212

A formal announcement was made at the Publishing Reception on Sunday, Nov 10, 2019 at the SSSA meetings in San Antonio.

Analysis of submissions

Submissions and acceptance rate of manuscripts submitted to JEQ (2014-2019)

<u>Number of manuscripts submitted</u>	<u>Acceptance rate</u>
2019: 378 (Jan 1 to Dec 16)	2019: 49%
2018: 414	2018: 46%
2017: 461	2017: 39%
2016: 466	2016: 36%
2015: 621	2015: 37%

Average review times for JEQ manuscript (2015-2019). As of September 30, 2019.

	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	----- Average Number of Days -----				
Editor to TE	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5
TE to AE	3.4	4.2	3.8	4.1	5.1
AE assign reviewer	15.1	17.2	12.5	10.5	11.1
Days with reviewer	24.9	23.6	18.8	18.7	18.7
Days to release	45.4	47.0	39.2	42.5	35.1
1st recommendation of revision	68.1	62.7	60.1	64.9	56.9
Days in revision	29.5	27.3	25.2	28.3	27.5
Days to final decision	80.1	76.0	56.1	63.6	69.3

Summary of papers by category to show trends in current topics

Number of papers published in each subject matter category (2015-2019)

Category	Vol. 48 2019	Vol 47 2018	Vol 46 2017	Vol 45 2016	Vol 44 2015
Reviews & Analyses	2	6	5	4	1
Environmental Issues	2	3	3	1	2
Special Collections	79	58	31	71	57
Technical Notes & Preliminary Communications	14	11	13	14	9
Atmospheric Pollutants and Trace Gases	11	15	15	22	13
Biodegradation and Bioremediation	5	1	6	4	4
Ecological Risk Assessment	0	0	0	0	0
Ecosystem Restoration	0	0	0	1	0
Environmental Microbiology	7	5	6	5	3
Environmental Models, Modules, and Datasets	2	4	4	9	8
Ground Water Quality	4	9	5	4	3
Landscape and Watershed Processes	9	4	9	13	13
Organic Compounds in the Environment	4	5	7	9	15
Plant and Environment Interactions	5	4	6	4	6
Remote Sensing & Environmental Degradation	1	0	0	1	0
Surface Water Quality	26	16	22	23	24
Urban Pollutants	3	13	3	3	1
Trace Elements in the Environment	5	0	9	11	9
Vadose Zone Processes and Chemical Transport	7	6	5	5	5
Waste Management	11	11	20	17	17
Wetlands and Aquatic Processes	3	4	2	3	8
Datasets	3	0	3		

JEQ Total Submissions (Jan -Dec 16, 2019)	339	%
US	163	43%
International	215	58%
Paper Type		
Book Review	0	0%
Letter to the Editor	2	1%
Dataset Paper	4	1%
Environmental Issues	32	9%
Reviews & Analyses	11	3%
Special collection: AES	26	8%
Special collection: AWQS	12	4%
Special collection: CDP	34	10%
Special collection: RPM	1	0%
Tech. Notes & Preliminary Comm.	20	6%
Technical Research Paper	197	58%

Special Collections of Papers in JEQ (2015-2019)

2019: 5 with 79 papers
2018: 4 with 58 papers
2017: 2 with 30 papers
2016: 5 with 71 papers
2015: 4 with 57 papers

Special Collections of Papers Published in 2019

Buffer Strip Effectiveness for Sediment and Nutrient retention, Enhancing Biodiversity, Planning and Public Preferences

Editors: Marc Stutter, Brian Kronvang and Joachim Rozemeijer

Agricultural Water Quality in Cold Environments

Guest Editors: Jian Liu, Helen Baulch, Jane Elliott, Merrin Macrae, and Henry Wilson

Viewpoints on the future of humic substances research

Celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Discovering Phosphorus—For Better or Worse

Guest Editors: Andrew Sharpley, Peter Kleinman, and Don Flaten

Alkaline Extraction of Soils and Natural Waters to Understand Environmental Processes

Guest Editors: Nik Qafoku, Nancy Hess, and Garrison Sposito

Special Collections expected in 2020

System-level Nutrient Pollution Control Strategies

Guest Editors: Mazdak Arabi, James Mihelcic, and James Shortle

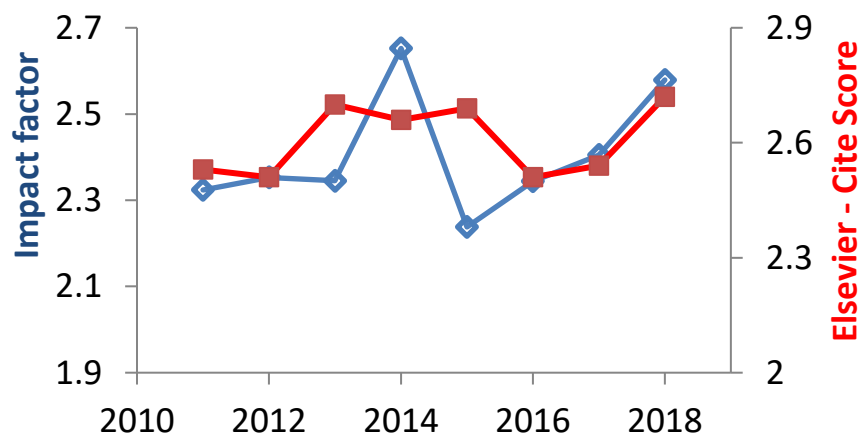
Global Research Alliance N₂O Chamber Methodology Guidelines

Guest Editors: Rod Venterea, Cecile de Klein, Mike Harvey, Søren Petersen, Tim Clough

JEQ's impact factor

The journal's impact factor increased again this year – from 2.41 to 2.58. This is the fourth consecutive year it has increased (see figure below) and is the second highest it has ever been. The 5-year IF went down a bit, but it's still higher than the 2-yr IF, which we expect. JEQ is ranked in the top 40% of all 'environmental science' journals published (>240 journals).

Other journal metrics such as Google Scholar's h5 index show that JEQ is quite strong relative to other journals. JEQ has an h5 index of 40 and it ranks 8th out of 20 soil science journals. JEQ's Cite Score (2.72 is the highest score it has ever received) puts it among the top 20% of journals in the category of water science and technology.



JEQ Impact Factor (2014-2018)

Year	Total Cites (rank)	Impact Factor (rank)
2018	15,317	2.579 (106 of 250)
2017	14,507	2.405 (100 of 241)
2016	14,211	2.344 (89 of 229)
2015	13622	2.238 (87 of 225)
2014	13085	2.652 (63 of 223)

5-year Impact Factor

2018: 2.875

2017: 2.962

2016: 2.986

2015: 2.924

JEQ Statistics Panel

A JEQ Statistics Panel was established this year (see names below). The purpose of this Panel is to have experts in statistics available to answer statistical questions/concerns that come up during reviews of manuscripts. The advice provided has been invaluable for answering some questions and improved the manuscripts. I encourage you to use this expertise. Please contact a Statistics Panel member (or your TE) if you or your reviewers have any questions related to statistics in manuscripts under review. Their names are (for now) on the list of reviewers in Manuscript Central.

Members of the JEQ Statistics Panel

Kate Hu	Kathleen Yeater
Kimberly Campbell	Nothabo Dube
Yanchong Huangfu	Dale Wilson
Puran Bridgemohan	Terry Loecke
Russell Yost	Vera Bulaevskaya
Edzard van Santen	Alison Eagle

Use of statistical significance

Over the last few months there have been a few papers related to the use of p-values and statistical significance. The basic idea is that conclusions of scientific studies should not be based solely on whether an effect was 'statistically significant'. This is a big shift in thinking for those of us who were taught otherwise (e.g., that there was no difference between two groups because the difference was 'statistically not significant' as determined by $p < 0.05$). I have raised this issue with the JEQ Statistics Panel and we are considering including some recommendations in the author instructions about the use of 'statistical significance' in manuscripts. We will be discussing this at the meetings.

Developing new special collections of papers

Some of the most highly cited/downloaded papers in JEQ are in special collections and so they are important to the journal. Please consider suggesting or leading the organization of a special collection yourself. Forward your ideas and suggestions to the new editor, Doug Smith.

Increasing the visibility and promoting JEQ articles

- 1) Improving the visibility of JEQ articles will raise awareness of environmental science and our scientific disciplines. We have a Science Communications Editor who oversees which JEQ papers to publicize to the general public or scientific community. There is a feature in Manuscript Central that appears on the dashboard at the final recommendation stage. It allows you to flag an article for promotion when you make a final decision. It is here that you can add a few sentences to describe the importance of the research and why the paper should be promoted.
- 2) JEQ has a Twitter account (@jenvironqual). Follow JEQ if you're on Twitter and please retweet messages. Also, send your ideas and comments about articles or scientific issues in JEQ to Ann Edahl to tweet and/or post on Facebook.

Reviewers – how to find them

Finding suitable reviewers can often be difficult and sometimes AEs can invite numerous reviewers but no

one accepts. This causes delays in the review process. Please contact the TE or me after asking 5 individuals to review a paper without success; we will help you find reviewers.

Contact information for JEQ

Ann Edahl, managing editor (aedahl@sciencesocieties.org)

Matt Wascavage, director of publications (mwascavage@sciencesocieties.org)

Abby Morrison, editorial assistant (amorrison@sciencesocieties.org)

Lauren Coleman, submissions manager (lcoleman@sciencesocieties.org)

Acknowledgments

I have completed my second term and the incoming editor is Doug Smith (USDA-ARS, Temple, TX). The success of JEQ in producing important and timely scientific articles is due to the conscientious and diligent efforts of the JEQ Technical Editors, Associate Editors, and ASA-CSSA-SSSA staff. I am grateful to the members of the JEQ Editorial Board and the ASA-CSSA-SSSA staff for their efforts in maintaining rigorous standards for evaluating, reviewing and editing manuscripts.

I especially thank Ann Edahl for her help, advice and hard work as Managing Editor; it has been a pleasure to work with her.

Ed Gregorich, Editor

Journal of Environmental Quality