

The next symposium on "Tidal Clastics 96" is to be held in the University of Florida, U.S.A.

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THE JOURNAL OF 1992 : AN ANALYSIS

A study was made recently on the contents of the 12 issues of the Journal of the Geological Society of India of the year 1992. The following emerge as a result of the analysis:

- (i) 89 Research papers were published, 11 papers were discussed (Comment and Reply), 23 books received by the Society were reviewed, contents of 5 publications, proceedings of 4 National and 4 International Conference/Seminars/Workshops were brought to the notice of the readers, besides 12 editorials on different topics of interest to the earth science community.
- (ii) The total number of pages published (excluding Sanchaya - bibliography of Indian Geology) in the 12 issues of the journal was 1119, out of which the Research Papers added up to 667, accounting for 55% of the space.
- (iii) Approximate number of papers published under different subdisciplines were: Petrology - 16; Fluid inclusions and Geochemistry -10; Sedimentology -9; Economic Geology - 7; Structural Geology -5; Tectonics -5; Hydrogeology -5; Stratigraphy -5; Micropalaentology -5; Palaeontology -4; Geophysics -4; Marine Geology -4 and others 2 or 1.
- (iv) The areas dealt with by papers ranged from World Oceans to a few samples from an outcrop. Yet a classification was made and it indicated that South India topped with 8, followed by Indian Ocean -5, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea -3 each. Statewise breakup is approximately as follows: Andhra Pradesh -9; Uttar Pradesh -7; Karnataka-6; Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan -5 each; Maharashtra-4; Foreign lands -4 and others 2 or 1.
- (v) The maximum number of papers received was from the Universities, followed by the Geological Survey of India, National Geophysical Research Institute, Indian Institute of Technologies, Foreign authors, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, National Institute of Oceanography and Centre for Earth Science Studies.
- (vi) There were 24 papers from single authors, 32 from 2 authors, 19 from 3, 11 from 4, 2 from 5 and 1 from 6 authors. In a few cases it appeared as though the papers were weighed down by too many authors.
- (vii) Of the 224 Research Papers received during the year 78 were accepted for publication, 66 rejected and the rest are under various stages of refereeing and revision.
- (viii) On an average it took 6 to 8 months for an accepted paper to appear in print.

It is obvious from this analysis that more space should be given to the publication of Research Papers so that the time lag between the receipt and publication be reduced.

Therefore the space allotted to Research Papers will be increased from 55% to 75%. Naturally this would result in reduction in the quota to other features like Discussion, Notes, Announcements etc.

The authors should also cooperate by reducing the length of their contribution. It would greatly help if the authors strictly conform to the guidelines published in the January and July issues of the journal. Editorial, henceforth, will not be a regular feature. However, any Fellow is welcome to communicate on any important topic, a short write-up, that would be of interest to the earth science community.

It could be seen that a majority of the papers dealt with hard rocks (mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, stratigraphy, structure), Peninsular India having almost three-fourths of it covered by these rocks. In the past couple of decades research in other fields also is slowly gaining ground. Hence, it may be desirable to have more publications particularly in the fields of economic geology, sedimentation, Quaternary geology and geomorphology, which are likely to have relatively greater applications in the years to come.

It is always tempting for an active worker to question the findings of someone else's in the same field of specialisation, if it does not conform to his own earlier findings. There is nothing wrong with this and discussion has to be encouraged. But comments should be brief and to the point aimed at obtaining clarifications and correcting major errors only. The journal cannot be a forum for a slinging match between the author and his critic.

It is but natural that young workers would like to see their papers published as early as possible for a variety of reasons. This can be done provided important original findings of 2 to 3 pages are communicated, with a figure, if absolutely necessary, which can be published after due refereeing as a Research Note, within 6 months of the receipt of the note.

It is hoped that the authors and the referees will extend their full cooperation to serve the main objectives of the journal. Constructive suggestions are sought from the Fellows for improving the content and get up of the journal.

R.V.

GEOSCIENTIFIC MAP TO GEO-INFORMATION

This compilation (Vol. 122, 1992, 492 p. of *Geologisches Jahrbuch Reihe A*) essentially reflects the efforts of various working groups which contributed to the research project 'Digital Geoscientific Map Series', funded by DFG. It covers all possible aspects of converting the geoscientific maps in the digital form, creating databases and how effectively they can be utilised in different application purposes such as cartography, geology, natural resources, geomorphology, ecology and soil sciences. It also provides best insight for setting up a geoscientific information system from the geoscientific maps. The overall structure and design criteria are well defined in the introductory chapters and aids first level managers with necessary information required for setting up GIS in their respective fields.

Treatise given in the first chapter provides the reader with an insight of different aspects related to spatial data acquisition and representation. Intended readers of this compilation are recommended to acquire a prior knowledge about the fundamental concepts of GIS.

The database structure and management encompasses discussion on various data structure, their representation methods, extendibility and applications, highlighting the relative merits and limitations. The importance of user interfaces, which plays very vital role in making