

# Journal of Geodesy

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*Editor in Chief: Jürgen Kusche (Germany)*

## Activity Report

Journal of Geodesy (JoG) is an international journal concerned with the science of geodesy and related inter-disciplinary sciences. JoG is the official scientific journal of the IAG and it publishes monthly research articles, review papers, and short notes. Its publishing company, based on an agreement with IAG, is Springer Heidelberg.

The Editor-in-Chief (EiC) is responsible for the scientific content of the journal. He makes the final decision on whether a manuscript is accepted for publication. He is advised by an Editorial Board (EB). The 2015-2019 EB comprised 21 members (associate editors) from 18 countries:

S. Bettadpur (USA), C. Brunini (Argentina), T. v. Dam (Luxemburg), D. Dong (China), Y. Gao (Canada), M. Hernandez-Pajares (Spain), T. Hobiger (Sweden), A. Hooper (UK), C. Huang (China), A. Jäggi (Switzerland), W. Keller (Germany), R. Lohman (USA), Z. Malkin (Russia), B. Meyssignac (France), M. King (Australia), R. Riva (The Netherlands), W.-D. Schuh (Germany), I. Tziavos (Greece), S. Verhagen (The Netherlands), M. Vermeer (Finland), P. Wielgosz (Poland), Y. Yuan (China), P. Xu (Japan).

JoG uses the Editorial Manager (EM), a web-based peer review system, which allows easy manuscript submission, provides author information and e-mail updates, and helps reducing the turnaround time. In recent years, EM has added automated workflows e.g. for plagiarism checking and authorship change requests.

JoG publishes special issues on topics of general interest to the geodetic community, where all contributions must be of highest standards. These are then physically combined in one issue (but normally published online once individually accepted). The most recently published special issue (September 2018, volume 92, issue 9) was dedicated to “Investigations of reference systems for monitoring global change and for precise navigation in space”, and another special issue (on “Satellite Laser Ranging”) is currently in preparation.

Indeed, JoG would like to encourage authors to (1) submit review papers and (2) initiate special issues related to topics of high interest to the geodetic community. JoG publishes short notes once in a while when topics are timely and of interest to a broad readership.

## Impact Factor

The Impact Factor (IF) of JoG has shown some variability over the last years; the current (2017) Impact Factor is 4.633, based on Thomson Reuters JCR (Journal Citation Report). Measured by the IF, JoG is 2017 among the top 10 journals within Springer’s topical journal collections: rank 6 out of 30 in Remote Sensing journals, and rank 7 out of 85 in Geochemistry and Geophysics journals. For the last years JoG has seen the following evolution of IF and citations (the 2018 IF will likely be published in July 2019):

Table 1: JoG Impact Factor and total journal article citations for 2015-2017

Year	Impact Factor	Citations
2015	2.486	2881
2016	2.949	3838
2017	4.633	4436

### Submissions and acceptance

The number of submissions has steadily increased with on average about 10% additional submissions each year. The top 10 countries with the highest number of submissions are China, Germany, US, France, Australia, Canada, Iran, Italy, Netherlands, and the UK.

Table 2: JoG submitted and accepted manuscripts (per calendar year) for 2015-2018

Year	submitted	accepted
2015	247	77
2016	271	97
2017	260	97
2018	302	103

The acceptance rate is quite stable, around 34%.

### Review statistics and turnaround time

The JoG knows a nominal review period of 28 days. Table 3 shows some statistics of the review process. Indeed, the average number of days to complete a review is nearly stable at about 32. However, as it is obvious from the table, in order to obtain three reviews (which is nominal) the associate editors have to invite, on average, five potential reviewers. The other observation is that turnaround times measured in days from submission to first decision have recently increased; this can be largely explained by the increased editorial load from receiving more submissions.

Table 3: JoG number of review invitations and completed reviews and average turnaround time (submission to first decision in days) for 2015-2018

Year	Review invitations	Completed reviews	Average Turnaround time
2015	953	596	56.1
2016	1297	787	59.9
2017	1212	761	70.4
2018	1446	829	70.1

**Editorial policy**

The journal's editorial policy is continuously developed through discussions among the EB, with Springer and with the IAG EC, and based on author and reviewer communications. Starting with January 1, 2019, two new elements have been introduced; authors now provide Author Contribution Statement (ACS) and Data Availability Statement (DAS) upon submission.

**IAG Young Authors Award**

This award is to draw attention to important contributions by young scientists in the Journal of Geodesy and to foster excellence in scientific writing. On the basis of suggestions made by the EB, the EiC provides a shortlist of award candidates to the IAG EC every two years.