

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of *Meteorological Applications* under my Editorship. Although I became Editor in July last year, John Thornes continued to oversee the production of issues up to the end of Volume 12. Firstly I should like to thank John for all his hard work and enthusiasm in steering the Journal over the past five years. I am delighted that he has agreed to remain on the Editorial Board, so that his experience and skills will still be available. You will also see from the list on the inside front cover that several members of the Editorial Board have left the Journal, and I should like to thank them, too, for their contributions to *Meteorological Applications*. I am also pleased to welcome the new members to the Board.

I have just completed five years as a member of the Editorial Board of *Weather*, so I have some experience in working with the RMetS and its journals. I also work, as a biometeorologist, in a highly applied field of meteorology and overlapping disciplines, so I fully recognise the important niche that *Meteorological Applications* fills in the community that uses meteorological data and knowledge to add value to its endeavours. The strength of *Meteorological Applications* is that it is designed to be a journal with a wide readership: the approach is multidisciplinary and we welcome submissions from researchers working in a range of backgrounds. Consequently, I believe that the Journal has much to offer and I have been investigating ways to enhance and promote its profile – in short, to make *Meteorological Applications* the journal of choice for researchers seeking to disseminate information within this burgeoning community.

As a first step, I have been working with the Editorial Board and Cambridge University Press over the past few months on improvements to the submission and publication process, as well as to the appearance and content of the Journal. These will be introduced over the next few issues, but you will notice some changes in the current issue. Perhaps most importantly, we have updated and clarified the wording of the aims of the Journal so as to re-emphasise the Journal's wide readership. These details are on the inside front cover. The other changes evident in this issue are the introduction of keywords (below the abstract of each paper) and the provision of submission and revision dates as an indication of the time taken to bring each paper to press.

In order to reflect the applied nature of the Journal, I should like to encourage the submission of review papers. These will provide a vehicle for authors to provide more of an overview and discussion of a subject than perhaps would normally be possible in a standard article. At this stage it is proposed to request such papers by invitation, but anybody wishing to offer a review paper is invited to contact me. Associated with this, and following on from the successful 'GIS in Meteorology and Climatology' special issue (12:1), we have a supplement on 'Weather, Climate and Farmers' in the pipeline. This should appear later in the year. We are also investigating the possibility of publishing book reviews.

To improve the speed at which papers achieve publication, all authors are now asked to submit manuscripts as Word documents by email wherever possible, directly to the Editor at the address given on the inside cover. It is planned to move to a process of electronic submission in the next few months: details about this will appear on the Journal's website (http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_MAP), which is also accessible through the RMetS home pages (<http://www.rmets.org/index.php>), and also in the Notes to Contributors on the inside back cover. The website will be the main source of updated information in the future.

This time of transition also provides a timely opportunity to remind contributing authors of some journal style issues. These are summarised on the inside back cover of the Journal, but authors are also advised to consult the style guide on the Journal's website before preparing manuscripts (follow the Instructions for Contributors link on the Journal's website). The aim of the style guide is to assist authors in the submission of better-prepared papers and hence reduce the time to publication. Because of the varied subject nature of the papers published in the Journal, strict formats for submitted papers are not imposed, but we are trying to standardise the layout of papers and some issues of writing style. This will also help with the goal of reducing paper turnover times. It is not the intention to duplicate the style guide here, but I should like to draw the attention of potential authors to some changes, and also make some requests.

Authors are requested to keep the broad readership of *Meteorological Applications* in mind when writing

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papers. Whilst a degree of specialisation is inevitable, please make sure that the background and discussion parts of the paper, at least, are understandable by a non-specialist in the field. In practice, this can be achieved by adding a few extra lines of explanation, or some definitions.

Writing (and editing) styles are as per Cambridge University Press British English style (e.g. single inverted commas *not* double; -ise spellings in words such as 'organise, organisation, organising', etc; times and dates in the form 2200 UTC, 22 January 2006). In addition, the use of 'I', 'we' and 'our' should be avoided (e.g. write 'This paper explores/The results indicate that...' rather than 'In this paper we explore/Our results indicate that...'). Authors whose first language is not English are strongly advised to have their manuscripts read and corrected by a native English speaker prior to submission.

Please ensure that any figure labels (e.g. (1), (a) etc) appear outside the figures and not within a graph area or illustration. All descriptive material for a figure, except for axis labels or other identifying labels, should appear in the figure legends.

Authors are particularly requested to ensure that manuscripts follow the Journal's style of referencing. Please

consult a recent copy of *Meteorological Applications* for guidance on formatting references. Further, all journal abbreviations in the reference list must conform to those listed in the ISI Journals Abbreviations Index (<http://library.caltech.edu/reference/abbreviations/>).

A page charge (currently £500 per page or part thereof) is levied for colour figures. Authors are asked to confirm that they have funds available to meet these charges at the time they submit papers. If such funds are not available it is the responsibility of authors to ensure that colour figures reproduce clearly in black and white (this is especially important in the case of figures which use 'intermediate' colours such as pinks and yellows, which are not always clearly distinguishable in greyscale). No manuscript will be accepted for publication until payment of colour page charges (if appropriate) has been received. All figures must be submitted at 300 dpi minimum.

Finally, whilst there are no plans at present to introduce a formal letters page or readers' forum in *Meteorological Applications* I always welcome any feedback or communications, and I will do my best to address any concerns or issues raised.

Peter Burt
22 January 2006