

## Editorial

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The internet is presently changing the world of scientific information. People expect to find more and more on the web and do not physically visit existing libraries any longer. Furthermore, search engines are used to locate scientific papers and the most accessible papers are read (and cited) first with the expectation that the papers are available for free. This means that publishers have to look for alternative sources to finance internet content. For scientific papers, this change coincides with another development: the evaluation and the statistical ranking of scientific work. Important statistics are the impact factor of the journal and the number of citations per paper. The impact factor and number of citations have proven to correlate strongly with the availability and accessibility of the paper. Papers which can be easily downloaded from the web are more highly cited and thus raise the impact factor of the journal which published it.

A third development has evolved in the last years: public funding bodies which support scientific work at universities and other research institutions increasingly expect that publically funded scientific results are freely available to the taxpayers who – in the end – provided the money for the funding. Finally, the authors themselves have the greatest interest in the evaluation of their own publications for obtaining funding to continue their work. Consequently, authors (or their hosting organisation) are now willing to pay for a quality publication.

All these developments have led to a change in scientific publishing. The Open Access model of publishing scientific papers in journals has been developed to meet the requirements of all parties as listed above: readers access papers without paying or leaving their desks, publishers are able to fund their activities, funding bodies can present results to the taxpayers and – last but not least – authors and research institutions are free to distribute their papers for non-commercial purposes.

As one of the oldest scientific journals in the field of meteorology, Meteorologische Zeitschrift (MetZet) has now decided to switch to this new publication model as well: from 2014 onwards, MetZet is a full Open Access journal. Authors or their institutions pay a publication fee so that all papers are freely available to everybody via the internet. Those who like to have a printed copy delivered to their door can still order a printed edition at cost price. An Open Access strategy does not mean any change to the scientific quality of the information published in MetZet. The peer review system will be fully maintained in the future and the visual appearance of the papers published in this journal will also be unaltered. The classical typesetting will be continued in order to offer an easily readable paper to our readers. Additional features will be available from the home page of the journal at <http://www.schweizerbart.de/journals/metz> where all previously published issues are accessible. A search engine allows for searching the titles and text of all MetZet papers.

The publication fee is split into two parts. There will be a basic fee which applies to all papers and which essentially serves to finance the handling of the manuscript, the maintenance of the electronic submission and review system, and the allocation of the DOI number. In addition, there will be a fee based on the number of published pages. This second fee serves the preparation, typesetting and electronic publishing of the final manuscript. Our financial model offers a reasonable price for short papers as well as a very competitive price for longer articles. There are no longer any additional fees for coloured figures. When comparing this new financial model to the old subscription model, it turns out that both authors and readers win. Authors usually pay less than before (except for rather short papers) and readers do not pay at all.

A new feature has also been introduced into our publication process in the recent years and will be continued: English language editing. The global distribution of modern Open Access journals requires a reasonably good use of the English language in order to convey the scientific content to everybody who is interested. Papers from non-native English speakers among the authors who do not have the opportunity to get language editing beforehand will be edited by the publisher for a small cost price per published page. The current prices are available from the authors' instructions.

We hope that this new MetZet will be the ideal platform for the communication of your scientific results in future.

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