From 1970 to 2020: 50th Anniversary of "Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment" - the IAEG's Scientific Journal

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1. Introduction

"Bulletin of the International Association of Engineering Geology" and "Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment", as its previous and recent names, respectively, is the official journal of the International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG) and created in 1970, six years after the establishment of IAEG. Since only a few international associations have their own scientific and technical journals, the value of the Bulletin increased day by day. Starting as a simple artisanal publication, the Bulletin became a scientific reference among the most respected journals in the fields of engineering geology, the environment and other geoscience. This year, we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Bulletin. It has been great honor and pleasure for the two Editors-in-Chief of the Bulletin, to have compiled and written this article celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

In this article, following section 2 on the brief history of the Bulletin, the purpose and scope of the Bulletin are described in section 3. A brief history of the Editors-in-Chief (EiC) of the Bulletin and its Editorial Board through 50 years and the distribution of the Editorial Board members with respect to countries/regions are given in section 4. Section 5 includes brief information on the Hans Cloos Medal (the most prestigious medal given by IAEG) Lecture Papers published in the Bulletin. In section 6, the A&I services covering the Bulletin, and the impact of the Bulletin are provided. The Impact Factors (IFs) of the Bulletin are compared against some other well-known journals in Engineering-Geological category. The paper submission and evaluation procedures are described in section 7. Finally, in section 8, some statistical assessments on the submissions and the publication plan for the Bulletin are given and briefly discussed.

2. Brief History of the Bulletin

The IAEG was founded in 1964. At that time, few international societies had their own scientific journal. The first elected executive committee of IAEG decided at their second meeting at the UNESCO Palace, Paris, in May 1969 to create an official scientific journal of the IAEG, edited and published by the Association and named the "Bulletin of the International Association of Engineering Geology" (Figure 1a). As the official journal of IAEG, the Bulletin of the International Association of Engineering Geology was first published in 1970. The first Bulletin was distributed during the 1st IAEG Congress held in September 1970 in Paris, particularly with the personal efforts of Quido Záruba, the IAEG president, Jaroslav Pašek, Marcel Arnould and several other staff from the Paris School of Mines. In the first editorial in Bulletin No. 1 (presumably written by the secretary general, Marcel Arnould), it was indicated that the "Bulletin was not seen as being in competition with other engineering geological journals, rather, *it is intended to be a common platform for communication where our members and all engineering geologists will find the news from the field of engineering geology"*. Marcel Arnould also wrote in the first editorial that the executive committee wanted the Bulletin to be a relatively modest affair with only two issues per year so that costs and, hence, subscription rates could be kept to a minimum.

The 1969 meeting in Paris also determined that the Bulletin would be bilingual, in the sense that authors could submit papers in either French or English. Each paper was to have an abstract and keywords in both French and English. This was in accordance with the founding philosophy of the IAEG, as stated in its statutes. The choice of two languages was a sign of the multi-cultural and multi-national nature of the Association. However, it is interesting to note further comments by Marcel Arnould in his 1972 General Assembly report that the executive committee left open the possibility of publishing abstracts in the other official languages of the IAEG – Russian, German, Italian and Spanish.

In the early days of the Bulletin, reviewing, editing, publishing, printing and shipping were all organized by the IAEG Secretary General and his secretariat. There was no separate Editor-in-Chief. The Secretary-General took on the role. However, according to the introduction to Bulletin No. 1 in 1970, an editorial secretary position was established by the general secretariat of the IAEG within the Department of Engineering Geology of the Geological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague. It is not clear for how long this position continued to exist. The Secretary General remained the editor of the Bulletin until the international science publishing house 'Springer' took over as the publisher of the Bulletin in 1998. While Marcel Arnould was editor, the Bulletin was printed by Presses de G. de Bussac, Clermont Ferrand, France; during the editorships of Richard Wolters and Karl-Heinrich Heitfeld, printing was transferred to Germany. From 1982 to 1997, under Louis Primel's editorship, the Bulletin was printed by Imprimerie Louis Jean, Publications Scientifique et Litteraires, Gap, France. In 1972, the Bulletin moved to a double column format.

In 1998, based on the contract signed between the IAEG and Springer on 27 November 1997, in Heidelberg, the Bulletin ceased to be published by the IAEG itself and publication moved to Springer. The Bulletin is now typeset in India and printed in the Netherlands. An important consequence of the move to an international publisher was that the Bulletin was now available digitally, online, via Springer's website.

The numbering system used by the Bulletin is quite confusing. From 1970 to 1997, two issues were published per year. These were labelled as No. 1, No. 2 and so on. Consequently, by the end of 1997, 56 separate issues had been published in 28 years. From 1998, the system changed to four parts per year with a more conventional numbering system of volumes and parts. It was decided that the numerical sequence should be maintained so the four parts for 1998 became Issues 1 to 4 of Volume 57. Four issues had been published in each Volume until 2018. It was increased to 8 issues in 2019 (Volume 58), and 10 Issues are planned to be published in 2020 (Volume 59).

At the IAEG Council meeting in June 1997 (Athens), it was agreed to change the name of the IAEG to the “International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment”. As a consequence, the Bulletin's name also changed to the “Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment” (Figure 1b). Agreement to change the Association's name was not unanimous but reflected the mood of the times, which also saw a change in the name of the 'Association of Engineering Geologists' in the USA to the 'Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists'. The change was also a consequence of a change in the statutes of the IAEG in 1992 (Kyoto). The new statutes broadened the scope of engineering geology beyond its traditional relationship with civil engineering to include a wider environmental agenda.

(a) (b)

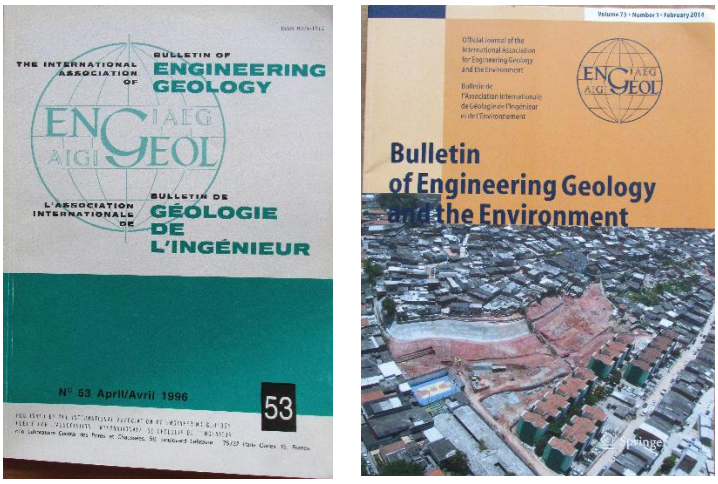


Figure 1. (a) Bulletin of the International Association of Engineering Geology, and (b) Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment

3. Scope of the Bulletin

According to the IAEG amendments to the statutes, which came into effect in August 1974, and were published in Bulletin No. 10 in December 1974, the purpose of the Bulletin was: "*To inform members and to promote publication for the worldwide dissemination of new engineering geological knowledge and techniques. The publication of the Bulletin is particularly devoted to this purpose*". This confirmed the statement in the first editorial in Bulletin No. 1 that it was initially envisaged as a cross between a newsletter and a scientific journal. The IAEG statutes of 1992 stated that one of the aims of the IAEG was to, "*...evaluate and disseminate the results of engineering geological activities on a worldwide basis by ... the publication of the scientific and technical achievements of members of the IAEG in the IAEG's own periodical and relevant news in the IAEG newsletter*". Here there is a clear distinction between scientific publication and news.

Engineering geology is defined in the statutes of the IAEG as the science devoted to the investigation, study and solution of engineering and environmental problems which may arise as the result of the interaction between geology and the works or activities of man, as well as of the prediction of and development of measures for the prevention or remediation of geological hazards. The scope of the Bulletin is as follow, which can also be found in the following link: https://www.springer.com/journal/10064/aims-and-scope

(a) the applications/implications of the geomorphology, structural geology, and hydrogeological conditions of geological formations;
(b) the characterization of the mineralogical, physico-geomechanical, chemical and hydraulic properties of all earth materials involved in construction, resource recovery and environmental change;
(c) the assessment of the mechanical and hydrological behavior of soil and rock masses;
(d) the prediction of changes to the above properties with time;
(e) the determination of the parameters to be considered in the stability analysis of engineering works and earth masses.

4. Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Board

Over the past 50 years, the Bulletin has had only eight Editors or Editors-in-Chief (Figure 2), one of whom was a temporary appointment lasting less than a year (Table 1). Among the past Editors, two Editors served 15 and 14 years, respectively. As seen from Table 1, until 2018 only one Editor took the responsibility. In the most recent years, as submissions to the Bulletin have exceeded 1000 per year, on 1st January 2018, the Bulletin began to have two Editor-in-Chiefs.

Figure 2. Editors-in-Chief of the Bulletin between 1970 to present (from left to right, top to bottom): Marcel Arnould, Richard Wolters, Karl-Heinrich Heitfeld, Louis Primel, Brian Hawkins, Martin Culshaw, Louis Wong, Reşat Ulusay

Table 1. Editors-in-Chief and Co-editors of the Bulletin (1970-2020)

EDITOR(S)-IN-CHIEF	**PERIOD**
Marcel Arnould *(France)*	1970 - 1973
Richard Wolters *(Germany)*	1974 - 1981
Karl-Heinrich Heitfeld *(Germany) (for Bulletin No. 24)*	1981
Louis Primel *(France)*	1982 - 1997
Brian Hawkins *(UK)*	1998 - 2012
Martin Culshaw *(UK)*	2013 - 2018
Martin Culshaw *(UK)* & Louis Wong *(Hong Kong)*	2018 - 2019
Louis Wong *(Hong Kong)* & Reşat Ulusay *(Turkey)*	2019 - present
CO-EDITORS	**PERIOD**
André Peter *(France)*	1982 - 1987
Roger Cojean *(France)*	1997 - 2015
Jean-Alain Fleurisson *(France)*	2015 - present

From 1970, the Editor (who was the Secretary General of the IAEG) was supported by an Editorial Board that consisted of the editor, H. Voltz, Rudolph Glossop, Quido Záruba, and Georgiĭ Zolotarev. By the time of the publication of Bulletin No. 2, this Board had expanded

and it continued to evolve until Richard Wolters took over as Editor-in-Chief in 1974. There was no mention of an Editorial Board in 1974 but in 1975 the editorial structure changed. An editorial committee was introduced, consisting of Bill Dearman (UK) and Owen White (Canada) responsible for English-language papers, Marcel Arnould responsible for French-language papers, Jean Ducellier (France) responsible for news and bibliographic material (until 1984), M. Reinhardt (Germany) responsible for advertising and H. Tekook (Germany) responsible for printing preparations. The editorial board was now called "Representatives of National Groups." The membership was essentially the same as the 1973 Editorial Board. When Louis Primel (France) took over as Editor-in-Chief in 1982, he appointed André Peter (France) as Co-Editor, who held this position until 1987. The "Representatives of National Groups" disappeared from the Bulletin at the end of 1985. At the 1986 Council meeting in Buenos Aires, a formal Editorial Board was re-established. Initially, this had 15 members but it eventually grew to 18.

After 1997, the new Editor-in-Chief, Brian Hawkins (UK), was supported by a co-editor, Roger Cojean (France), who dealt with French language papers and provided French abstracts for English language papers. Brian Hawkins worked in close partnership with his editorial assistant, Marian Trott, the two of them making a formidable team. Further support was provided by an Editorial Panel, which was the Executive Committee of the IAEG. There is no record of use being made of the original Editorial Board but from 2007, a new one was created, which, initially, had eight members. In 2014 this had grown to having over 25 members, reflecting the increase in submissions to the Bulletin and the need to have a reasonably rapid and auditable turnaround of papers. Members of the Executive Committee also act as Editorial Board members when paper submission rates are very high.

Martin Culshaw (UK) became the Editor-in-Chief in 2013 and significantly expanded the Editorial Board. Since 2018, the Bulletin began to have two Editor-in-Chiefs in view of the continually increasing number of submission. Each Editor-in-Chief is responsible for half of the submissions. Louis Wong (Hong Kong) was appointed as the other Editor-in-Chief. After the retirement of Martin Culshaw from the BOEG, his Editor-in-Chief role was taken over by Reşat Ulusay (Turkey). Due to retirement of some members and remarkable increase of the number of submissions in the last three years, some changes were made to the Editorial Board in mid-2019 and in the first half of 2020, leading to a steady increase of the number of the Board members. The current Editorial Board (as in June 2020) comprises 94 members (three Assistant Editors and 91 Board members). Before this modification, 24 countries/regions were represented on the Board, and now the number of represented countries/regions has increased to 32 (Table 2).

Table 2. Geographical distribution of the Editorial Board members (June 2020)

Country	**No.**	**Country**	**No.**	**Country**	**No.**	**Country**	**No.**
Argentina	1	Germany	1	Nepal	1	S. Africa	2
Australia	2	Greece	3	New Zealand	2	S. Korea	2
Canada	3	Hong Kong	3	Norway	1	Sweden	1
China	21	India	2	Pakistan	1	Switzerland	2
Croatia	1	Indonesia	1	Portugal	2	Taiwan	1
Czech Rep.	2	Italy	12	Russia	2	Turkey	8
Denmark	1	Japan	1	Serbia	1	UK	7
France	2	Kazakhstan	1	Singapore	1	USA	3

5. Hans Cloos Medal Lecture Papers Published in the Bulletin

In the Bulletin, a further important development took place in 2003. Since 1977, the IAEG had awarded its most prestigious medal, the Hans Cloos Medal, approximately every two years. From 2002, it was decided that the medal winner should present a Hans Cloos Lecture and that a paper, resulting from the lecture, would be published in the Bulletin. The first Hans Cloos Lecture paper, written by John Knill, was published in 2003. A list of the Hans Cloos Lecture papers is provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Hans Cloos Lecture papers published in the Bulletin

Year	**Hans Cloos lecturer**	**Title of the paper**	Publication details (year, volume, pages)
2002	John Knill	Core values: the first Hans Cloos Lecture	2003, V.62, 1-34
2004	Vincenzo Cotecchia	The Second Hans Cloos Lecture. Experience drawn from the great Ancona landslide of 1982	2006, V.65, 1-41
2006	Robert Schuster	The Third Hans Cloos Lecture. Urban landslides: socioeconomic impacts and overview of mitigative strategies	2007, V.66, 1-27
2008	Wang Sijing	The 2008 Hans Cloos Lecture. Seismic geo-hazard assessment of engineering sites in China	2009, V.68, 145-159
2010	Martin Culshaw	The 2010 Hans Cloos Lecture. The contribution of urban geology to the development, regeneration and conservation of cities.	2011, V.70, 333-376
2012	Victor Osipov	The 2012 Hans Cloos Lecture. Physico-chemical theory of effective stress in soils	2014, V.73, 903-915
2014	Roger Cojean	The 2014 Hans Cloos Lecture. Engineering Geology—some feedback regarding the practice of a scientific and technical discipline	2015, V.74, 1087-1103
2016	Resat Ulusay	The 2016 Hans Cloos Lecture. Geo-engineering aspects on the structural stability and protection of historical man-made rock structures: An overview of Cappadocia Region (Turkey) in the UNESCO's World Heritage List	2018, V.77, 457-488
2018	Runqiu Huang	The 2018 Hans Cloos Lecture*	Not yet published
2020	Faquan Wu		Not yet published

* Not submitted by the author yet

6. Impact

Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment is currently covered by the following (A&I) services:

AGRICOLA, CAB Abstracts, CNKI, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), Current Contents/ Engineering, Computing and Technology, Current Contents/Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences, Dimensions, EBSCO Academic Search, EBSCO Discovery Service, EBSCO Engineering Source, EBSCO Environment, EBSCO STM Source, EI Compendex, GeoRef, Geobase, Google Scholar, INSPEC, Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China, Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, Naver, OCLC WorldCat Discovery Service, ProQuest Agricultural & Environmental Science Database, ProQuest Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA), ProQuest Central,

ProQuest Civil Engineering Abstracts, ProQuest Earth, Atmospheric & Aquatic Science Database, ProQuest Engineering, ProQuest Environment Abstracts (Module), ProQuest Environmental Science, ProQuest Materials Science and Engineering Database, ProQuest Meteorological & Geoastrophysical Abstracts, ProQuest Natural Science Collection, ProQuest SciTech Premium Collection, ProQuest Technology Collection, ProQuest Water Resources Abstracts, ProQuest-ExLibris Primo, ProQuest-ExLibris Summon, SCImago, SCOPUS, Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch), Semantic Scholar, UGC-CARE List (India)

Since its foundation, another very important change for the Bulletin was the agreement that the Bulletin should receive an "impact factor (IF)". In any given year, this is defined as *the number of citations, received in that year, of articles published in that journal during the two preceding years, divided by the total number of "citable items" published in that journal during the two preceding years*. The Bulletin first received an impact factor in 2007. The IFs for the Bulletin between 2007 and 2019, together with those of other three main competitors during the same period, are shown in Table 4. It is interesting to note that since the Bulletin received an impact factor, the number of papers submitted and the number of papers published have increased significantly. At the first beginning until 2012, the IF for the Bulletin remained at just under 0.7, which was relatively low. However, only one of the three main competing English-language engineering geological journals had an impact factor over 1.0 at that time. In 2014, it slightly rose to 0.764, and then a clear increase in the IF was observed and it reached 2.138 in 2018 (Table 4). After one year, in 2019, the IF jumped to 3.041 with an increase of 0.903 as compared to that in 2018.

Figure 3 graphically presents the percentile rank in category. While the Bulletin was ranked 18 in the list of "top 20 journals in the Engineering, Geological" in 2017, it dropped to the rank of 22 in 2018. Due to the remarkable increase of IF from 2.138 to 3.041 in 2019, the Bulletin is now in the top 10 for Engineering, Geological journal category (Table 5).

Table 4. Impact factors for the Bulletin and three other English-language engineering geological journals (2007-2019)

Year	**Impact Factor**			
	BOEG	**QJEGH**	**EG**	**E&EG**
2007	0.463	0.685	0.951	0.271
2008	0.627	0.919	1.197	0.360
2009	0.342	0.877	1.212	0.372
2010	0.648	0.859	1.442	0.273
2011	0.667	0.797	1.242	0.340
2012	0.617	0.757	1.403	0.630
2013	0.721	0.568	1.757	0.596
2014	0.760	1.013	1.744	0.977
2015	1.252	1.058	2.196	0.500
2016	1.901	1.102	2.569	0.739
2017	1.825	0.818	3.100	0.318
2018	2.138	1.171	3.909	0.844
2019	3.041	1.897	4.779	0.755

Note: QJEGH = Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology; EG = Engineering Geology; E&EG = Environmental and Engineering Geoscience

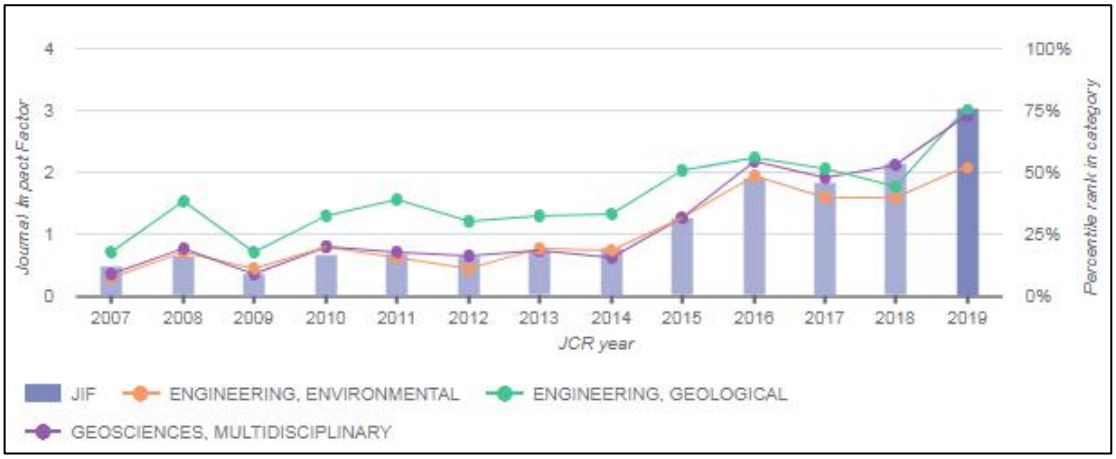


Figure 3. Variation of IF and percentile rank in category

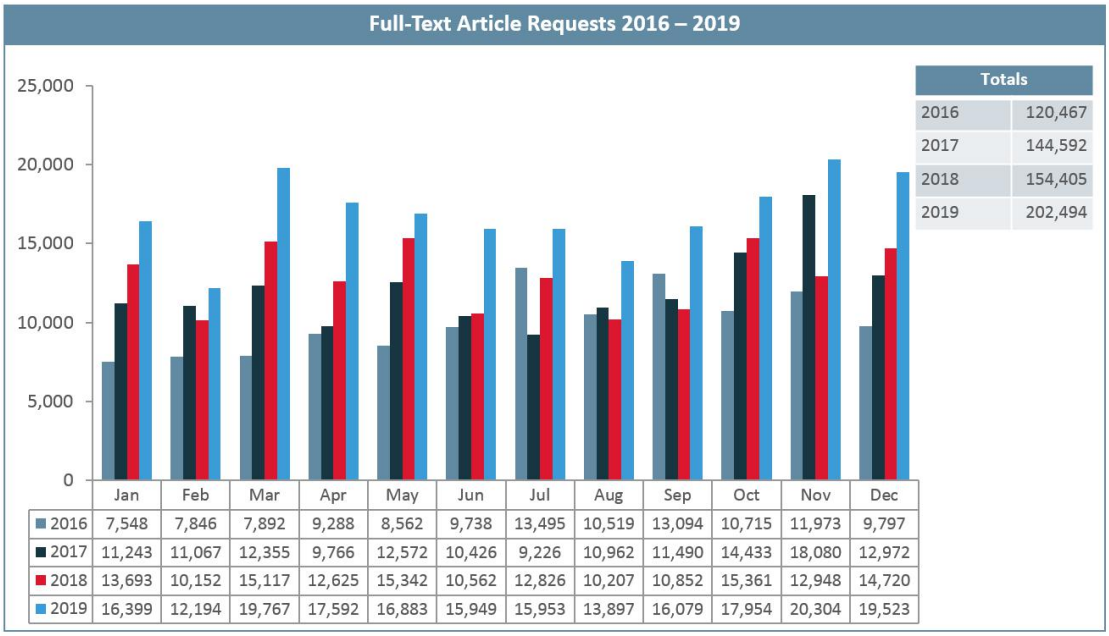
Table 5. Comparison of the Bulletin with other high performance Engineering, Geological journals for the year 2019.

Rank	Full Journal Title	Impact Factor
1*	ENGINEERING GEOLOGY	4.779
2	Landslides	4.708
3	Acta Geotechnica	4.350
4	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ROCK MECHANICS AND MINING SCIENCES	4.151
5	ROCK MECHANICS AND ROCK ENGINEERING	4.140
6	GEOTECHNIQUE	3.830
7	COMPUTERS AND GEOTECHNICS	3.818
8	EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING & STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS	3.414
9	GEOTEXTILES AND GEOMEMBRANES	3.400
10*	Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment	3.041
11	Journal of Rock Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	2.829
12	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR NUMERICAL AND ANALYTICAL METHODS IN GEOMECHANICS	2.814
13	CANADIAN GEOTECHNICAL JOURNAL	2.802
13	GEOSYNTHETICS INTERNATIONAL	2.802
15	JOURNAL OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING	2.779
16	JOURNAL OF GEOTECHNICAL AND GEOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING	2.714
17	SOIL DYNAMICS AND EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING	2.637
18	Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering	2.602
19	International Journal of Geomechanics	2.589
20	Geomechanics and Engineering	2.485
26*	Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology	1.897
37*	ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOSCIENCE	0.755

* Refer to Table 4 for yearly IFs

Apart from the IF, the status of the Bulletin can be assessed by a number of other metrics. For example,

1. SNIP 2019: 1.569 (Source Normalized Impact per Paper measures actual citations received relative to citations expected for the serial's subject field)
2. SJR 2019: 0.770 (SCImago Journal Rank measures weighted citations received by the serial. Citation weighting depends on subject field and prestige (SJR) of the citing serial)
3. TAT - Average Turnaround Time Submission to Accept 2019: 214 Days
4. Annual number of Full-Text Article Requests (downloads): 202,494 requests in 2019 (Figure 4). It increases by 68% as compared with that in 2016.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	7,548	7,846	7,892	9,288	8,562	9,738	13,495	10,519	13,094	10,715	11,973	9,797
2017	11,243	11,067	12,355	9,766	12,572	10,426	9,226	10,962	11,490	14,433	18,080	12,972
2018	13,693	10,152	15,117	12,625	15,342	10,562	12,826	10,207	10,852	15,361	12,948	14,720
2019	16,399	12,194	19,767	17,592	16,883	15,949	15,953	13,897	16,079	17,954	20,304	19,523

Figure 4. Number of Full-Text Article Requests for the Bulletin during 2016-2019.

7. Management of Submissions

Prior to 2012, papers were submitted to the Bulletin by authors direct to the Editor or one of the Editorial Team. Though it may have been the intention in the early days that all papers would be reviewed, this was not necessarily the case. This was particularly true when a large number of conference papers were to be published (for example, from the 1979 conference on 'Engineering Geological Mapping' held in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK). The reviewing procedure was that, once the editor had received a paper, it would be sent to a member of the Editorial Board, or an external reviewer, who would comment on the scientific quality. The editor might also review the paper and edit it as necessary.

A major change came in 2012 when Springer insisted that all papers must be submitted via their online Editorial Management system. This change coincided with the appointment of a new Editor-in-Chief, Martin Culshaw. To make the new system work, a much expanded Editorial Board was needed. Since 2012, papers have been sent electronically to a relevant Editorial Board Member (EBM), who then passes it to two or more reviewers based on the single blind policy, whose service is entirely voluntary. Once a paper has gone through the process of review, revisions, re-review etc. the paper is either accepted or rejected, and the accepted papers are then proof-read to ensure that the French/English language is of a publishable standard. The paper then moves to publication online and, ultimately, publication in the printed version of the Bulletin with the issue number and page numbers. The same system is generally followed by the current EiCs who oversee the overall review process and make the final decision. Below are additional details about the evaluation procedures before assigning the manuscripts to an EBM.

- A paper is first evaluated in terms of language and format. If it is poorly written and/or not properly prepared based on the “Instructions for Authors” stipulated by the Bulletin, it is rejected without invitation of EBM.
- If the paper offers nothing scientifically new (without any novelty and/or contributions) or does not present an unusual case study, it is rejected without invitation of EBM.

- If the subject matter of the paper lies outside that usually covered by the Bulletin, the paper is rejected. Sometimes, recommendation is provided to the author(s) to submit the paper to one of the other relevant journals.
- The Bulletin is committed to maintaining the highest level of integrity in the content published. The journal is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and subscribes to its principles on how to deal with acts of misconduct thereby committing to investigate allegations of misconduct in order to ensure the integrity of research. A similarity check of the submitted papers is performed by the publisher using iThenticate, a plagiarism detection software. If the paper is indicated to have substantial parts similar to those from other works, it is rejected. If plagiarism is identified, the COPE guidelines on plagiarism will be followed.

8. Production

8.1. Paper Progress

Table 6 summarises how papers are progressing through the system. The monthly submission rate has sharply increased from 16.7 papers/month in 2012 to 118.2 papers/month in 2019. However, for the first five months of 2020, the average monthly submission rate now stands at 166.8. That submissions are both numerous and sustained is heartening but creates a huge work-load for all involved. Based on the current submission rate, around 1700 submissions are expected (20% increase as compared with that of 2019).

Table 6 also shows paper acceptances and rejections as a percentage. From around 25-30% acceptances in 2013-14, acceptances have dropped to 22-23%. Rejections are running around 70-80%.

Table 6. Paper progress statistics from 2012 to Jun 2020 provided by Springer

Submissions	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Jan-June)
Total Submitted	**200**	**291**	**471**	**608**	**898**	**988**	**1,100**	**1,418**	**852**
Submission Rate (monthly)	**16.7**	**24.3**	**39.3**	**50.7**	**74.8**	**82.3**	**91.7**	**118.2**	**166.8**
Total Decisioned				**562**	**826**	**972**	**1,033**	**1,210**	**718**
Accept		89	138	123	153	220	225	261	191
Reject	26	225	349	439	673	733	792	900	510
Withdrawn		2	7			17	16	49	17*
Acceptance Rate		27.50%	29%	22%	19%	23%	22%	22%	26%*
Rejection Rate		73.50%	71%	78%	81%	76%	77%	74%	70%*
Withdrawal Rate							2%	4%	4%**
Average Days to First Decision	251	75	50	43	42	42	46	79	78*
Average Days to Final Disposition Accept		249	208	184	184	181	180	214	247*
Average Days to Final Disposition Reject	133	125	57	35	35	29	37	55	69*

Disclaimer:

** Official figures up to end of May 2020*

Please note that the term "Reject" is used for the calculation of the acceptance and rejection rates, which includes all terms that may exist for rejection decisions. For example: Reject before review; Reject after review; Reject, but resubmit; Reject, out of scope; and so forth. In addition: Only the papers for which the 'Final Disposition Date' has been set are taken into account. Final disposition date means that a manuscript is fully completed.

8.2. Contribution of submissions from different countries/regions.

As summarized in Table 7, close to 80% of the papers in 2019 and 2020 (up to June) came from Asia, followed by Europe. The top four countries were China, Iran, India and Turkey. Most notably, more than half of the submissions came from China.

Table 7. Number of papers submitted to the Bulletin in 2019 and 2020 (up to June) with respect to countries (the top 20 countries) and the Continent (all submissions)

Number of papers submitted to BOEG for the top 20 countries/regions (2019)		
Rank	**Country/Region**	**Percentage (%)**
1	China	56.10
2	Iran	12.95
3	India	5.17
4	Turkey	4.42
5	Italy	1.47
6	Australia	1.46
7	Nigeria	1.29
8	Brazil	1.20
9	Egypt	0.95
10	USA	0.94
11	Iraq	0.87
12	Spain	0.84
13	Algeria	0.84
14	Japan	0.76
15	Canada	0.69
16	United Kingdom	0.58
17	Pakistan	0.56
18	France	0.53
19	Poland	0.53
20	Vietnam	0.51

Classified by continent (2019)	
Continent	**Percentage (%)**
Asia	79.75
Europe	11.05
Africa	4.34
N America	1.79
S America	1.56
Aus/NZ	1.52
Total	100

2019

Number of papers submitted to BOEG for the top 20 countries/regions (2020)		
Rank	**Country/Region**	**Percentage (%)**
1	China	51.32
2	Iran	10.35
3	India	5.48
4	Turkey	5.22
5	Pakistan	1.97
6	Brazil	1.49
7	Malaysia	1.45
8	Egypt	1.39
9	Australia	1.11
10	Germany	1.03
11	Canda	0.97
12	USA	0.96
13	United Kingdom	0.95
14	Poland	0.93
15	Nigeria	0.92
16	Algeria	0.90
17	Taiwan	0.78
18	Italy	0.72
19	Vietnam	0.61
20	Japan	0.60

Classified by continent (2020)	
Continent	**Percentage (%)**
Asia	76.60
Europe	12.78
Africa	5.05
N America	2.20
S America	1.96
Aus/NZ	1.41
Total	100

2020
(up to June)

9. Future

In 2020 (Volume 79), 360 papers across 10 issues, each containing 36 papers, will be published.

Springer planned that CAP (**C**ontinuous **A**rticle **P**ublishing) will be implemented in 2022. It means that each article, after peer-review and acceptance, will be published immediately within the monthly issue, including a digital object identifier (DOI) and page numbers. Due to this special structure each article starts with page 1.

The Bulletin continues in very good health with the number of submissions and impact factor still increasing. However, this puts pressure on the Editors-in-Chief and the Editorial Board. The composition of the Editorial Board is constantly under review by the Editors-in-Chief, and a restructuring of the Editorial Board is under way. At the same time, we still need to ensure that the quality of published papers improves and that the time taken to make a decision on papers can be shortened.

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