

Editorial

During last year several changes have occurred in Annales Geophysicae. The journal reached its cruising speed both from the editorial and from the production point of view and we are publishing now 4000–4500 pages per year. We have changed the classical timing of publication for the 12 issues/year. When the number of printed pages reaches 300–350, an issue goes to print and is available on line. The number of special issues in 2005 has increased from 3 in 2004 to 5 in 2005.

To our great satisfaction, up to now, we have been able to maintain the publication free of charge for authors, to offer free color figures. We hope this policy will continue in the future.

In 2006, as a replacement for the past “Letter to the Editor”, Annales Geophysicae is launching a more attractive new section called “Angeo Communicates”, a place for rapid and short communications of major scientific results in the area of the Sun-Earth system, including the science of space weather, solar-planetary plasma physics and environments, and the Earth’s atmosphere and oceans.

The impact factor of the journal was 1.61 in 2004. This is a good number which can be increased partly by publishing high standard papers but also by largely referring to Annales papers in other media. Citation is an efficient way to increase the visibility of a paper and hence its publication medium.

To obtain and maintain a high standard, it is essential to build a strong peer-review system, and here I wish to recall the major role played by the referees and the topical editors. Without their work, entirely done on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the whole scientific community, this system would not exist. I would like to emphasize the word “voluntary”; writing a good review takes time and effort; most of the reviewers are keen on providing constructive remarks in order to contribute to an acceptable paper at the end. As authors, we are all anxious to receive the reports quickly and some of us find it hard to wait several weeks for an evaluation; however, we are all functioning on both sides of the medal, as author/as referee, and this should lead us to better comprehension and cooperation.

If the referees have the choice to retain their anonymity, the topical editors are fully exposed. They have the difficult tasks of reading papers, choosing referees, reading reports, and finally deciding on acceptance or rejection. Very often, the decision is straightforward, but it may well be that an additional referee is necessary to make a fair decision; in some cases, the final decision may be taken by the editor in chief upon the topical editor’s request. The editor in chief also conducts the review process of papers coming from the same institute as that of the topical editors.

In 2005 the team of topical editors was partly renewed. Olivier Boucher, Editor of the Low Atmosphere Section, Mark Lester, the Editor of Ionosphere Section and Tuija Pulkkinen, Editor of the Magnetosphere Section have ended their terms. In 2006 Nadia Pinardi, Editor of the Ocean Section, will be also replaced. My warm thanks go to all of them for their very efficient and conscientious work that helped the journal to develop.

I am glad to welcome the new topical editors, Ioannis A. Daglis (Magnetosphere), Fabio d’Andrea (Low Atmosphere), Sergei Gulev (Ocean) and Mike Pinnock (Ionosphere).

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the work done by the Editorial and Production offices. The work of Sylviane Perret, who manages the Editorial Office, is essential for the journal. I thank her warmly. I also thank the whole team of the Production Office for their efficiency and Katja Gaenger for managing the special issues.

Wlodek Kofman
Editor in Chief