



Geoscientific Model Development - a journal about models, for modellers

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The journal Geoscientific Model Development arose from the observation that despite modelling being central to climate/earth system science, the models themselves are not generally subject to the same level of scrutiny and peer review as the results they generate. Model descriptions are generally (with some exceptions) difficult to publish independent from scientific results, and so are necessarily space-limited when they do appear. Consequently, it is not uncommon that the description of a given model is spread across several papers, and crucial aspects of the formulation may not be published at all. Issues of reproducibility, platform-dependence, version proliferation and the various fudges and corrections often needed in modelling, are rarely addressed in the literature.

GMD aims to change this by providing a place to publish detailed, peer-reviewed descriptions of numerical models, including verification and validation. Model developers can publish an initial description of a numbered version of their model, and address subsequent changes with a sequence of update papers. Thus, a body of citable literature can be developed which provides an authoritative reference for a given version of the model, greatly improving traceability and giving confidence in the provenance of the code. An additional benefit is that the citations generated will at last recognise the important contribution which model developers make to science.

The publication process is typical for an open access EGU journal: papers are initially published in an on-line discussion journal (Geoscientific Model Development Discussions), for a period of eight weeks. Anonymous reviews are solicited as normal, but are also published in the discussion journal. Anyone else may contribute to the discussions, if they wish. After the discussion period, the revision/review process operates as normal, until the paper is finally accepted or rejected by the handling topical editor.

In this paper we describe the journal, and present statistics of submissions, papers accepted etc. since its first issue in 2008.

For more details, see <http://www.geoscientific-model-development.net>