



SOIL - A new open access journal of the European Geosciences Union

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The Soil System Sciences (SSS) division of the EGU has been a strong and growing international research force in the last few years. Since the first EGU meeting with SSS participation in 2004 where 200 abstracts were presented in 7 sessions, the contribution of the SSS division has grown considerably, with 1,427 abstracts presented in 57 SSS sessions at the 2013 EGU General Assembly. After 10 years of active participation, the SSS Division has developed a new open access journal, SOIL, which will serve the whole EGU membership. SOIL intends to publish scientific research that will contribute to understanding the Soil System and its interaction with humans and the entire Earth System. The scope of the journal will include all topics that fall within the study of soil science as a discipline, with an emphasis on studies that integrate soil science with other sciences (Soils and plants, Soils and water, Soils and atmosphere, Soils and biogeochemical cycling, Soils and the natural environment, Soils and the human environment, Soils and food security, Soils and biodiversity, Soils and global change, Soils and health, Soil as a resource, Soil systems, Soil degradation (chemical, physical and biological), Soil protection and remediation (including soil monitoring), Soils and methodologies). Manuscript types considered for publication in SOIL are original research articles, review articles, short communications, forum articles, and letters to the editors. SOIL will also publish up to two special issues on thematic subjects per year and encourages conveners of innovative sessions at the EGU meeting to submit proposals for special issues to the executive editor who oversees special issues.

As with other EGU journals, SOIL has a two-stage publication process. In the first stage, papers that pass a rapid access-review by one of the editors will immediately be published in SOIL Discussions (SOIL-D). Papers will then be subject to interactive public discussion, during which the referees' comments (anonymous or attributed), additional short comments by other members of the scientific community (attributed), and the author's replies will also be published in SOIL-D. In the second stage, a peer-review and revision process is completed and, if accepted, finalized papers are published in SOIL. To ensure publication precedence for authors, and to provide a lasting record of scientific discussion, SOIL-D and SOIL are both ISSN-registered, permanently archived, and fully citable.

SOIL has a team of five executive editors who work together to oversee the running of the journal. Those executive editors, and their areas of primary oversight, are Eric Brevik (Review Article Editor), Jorge Mataix-Solera (Special Issues Editor), John Quinton (Awards and Recognitions Editor), Johan Six (Managing Editor), and Kristof Van Oost (Forum Article Editor). SOIL also has 46 associate editors.

Manuscripts can be submitted to SOIL at the journal's website (<http://www.soil-journal.net/home.html>) beginning in May 2014. The first issue will be published January of 2015. Publication fees will be waived for the first two years of publication.