

**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the meeting held on 26th November in the Council Room, Burlington House.

PRESENT: J. P. Turner (Chair), R. J. Pankhurst, D. Vaughan, M. Winter, S. Gibbs, A. Hills, N. Marriott and E. Nickless (for items 6 and 7).

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from P. Allen, A. J. Fleet, N. Macleod, J. D. Marshall, R. A. Strachan and N. Walton.
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting** were agreed and signed.
- 3 **Matters arising from the Minutes.** There were none.
- 4 **Publishing House report.** Paper PMC/07/09 had been circulated.

Production: Neal Marriott reported that one of the 2009 titles may slip into 2010 if there were further problems with the CD insert.

Marketing: it was hoped to have a more integrated approach for conference attendances next year, ensuring that all aspects of the Society were properly represented. Jonathan Turner reported that at the AAPG Rio meeting, they had a random selection of about 6 GSL SPs. Neal Marriott said that AAPG had become difficult to communicate with for various reasons and that Publishing House efforts are more productively focused on supporting the work of the Princeton Selling Group.

GSW: if a new host is chosen, there will be staffing implications for the Publishing House as content moved to the new host will require complete QA again. There would also be cost implications if GSL chose to retain HighWire as its host for the Lyell Collection as, currently, some Lyell Collection costs are paid by GSW because they are with the same host.

The GSW marketing exercise compared GeoRef subscribers with GSW subscribers and found that the biggest mismatch was in Europe and South America and marketing consultants are due to be contracted shortly in order to undertake a market analysis of these two regions and construct a plan for building sales.

The Chairman thanked all the Publishing House staff for their hard work.

- 5 **Online-only journals for Fellows and libraries.** Paper PMC/08/09 was noted.
- 6 **Photographs and health and safety.** Paper PMC/09/09 had been circulated. There was some concern that the Society could be interpreted to be condoning unsafe practices if a clear statement was not included. This had become a major concern to some Fellows because of the ongoing trial for corporate manslaughter after a geologist died in a collapsed trench.

The concerns applied not only to photos: other illustrations, descriptions of laboratory methods and any other material with HSE implications should also be covered.

A statement in the cover/preliminary material would not be sufficient as these get dissociated from pay-per-view downloads and author-circulated PDFs and offprints.

It was agreed that a 'copyright-like' statement should be included in the catchline of all papers in Society publications. NM/SG

A standard question about safe working practices should be included on all Society reviewing forms in order that the Chief Editors can be alerted to potentially problematic issues. AH

A general statement would be included on the Society's website. Any comments on the current draft statement included in the paper should be sent to Neal Marriott by 11 December. Edmund Nickless would get legal advice on the statement. Neal Marriott would contact the owners of the contract-published journals and books to advise them of the issues raised in discussion and exploring their preferred ways forward. EN NM

7 **Future of Special Publications.** Paper PMC/10/09 had been circulated.

The information for convenors of Society meetings has been updated recently and is now more assertive about publications arising from them. Other changes in commissioning procedures will be implemented by Society staff.

Angharad Hills would meet Marian Hollingsworth of Thomson-Reuter (ISI) in Bath the following week, and it was hoped that a consistent policy for inclusion of Special Publications in ISI indexes would be agreed. AH

It was noted that the Australian Research Council would use only Scopus (and Elsevier database) in their research assessment process. Special Publications are treated as a journal in Scopus and citation information is very easy to find.

There were two tangible incentives that would make SPs more attractive to convenors and authors: free colour figures in print and publishing online ahead of print (PAP).

It was agreed that the Society should implement PAP for SPs (and journals) as soon as reasonably possible within budgetary and staffing constraints. (This was unlikely to be before 2011 due to existing production commitments, most particularly the launch of new Lyell sites and migration of current sites to the upgraded H2O platform.). A statement of the Society's intent to publish ahead of print, including likely schedule should be published widely once firm plans were in place. NM

The Society had already agreed to provide free colour for Special Publications arising from Society Flagship meetings (but not for journal thematic sets). This would not apply to normal Specialist Group meetings.

Offering free colour in the print version clearly will have cost implications – not just in extra printing costs (most volumes would be likely to become full colour throughout once colour is free), but also in lost income from author payments. It was noted that much colour income is from petroleum companies, and there should be a way to maintain this income if the free colour is to be offered for all Special Publications.

It was noted that as print runs decreased, digital printing would become viable, and colour costs might be reduced. However, as Special Publications are increasingly sold by subscription (as part of the Lyell Collection), the relationship between production cost and price charged is becoming more complex.

It was also noted that online submission and PAP will increase the production costs of SPs.

Neal Marriott would produce a paper outlining the cost implications of free colour for the next meeting. NM

It was also agreed that there should be some publicity material promoting the benefits of publishing in SPs, and countering some of the misconceptions. This could be included in the Geoscientist, circulated to listservers and printed in leaflet form for distribution at conferences. Bob Pankhurst and Jonathan Turner would produce this in co-ordination with Neal Marriott and Angharad Hills. RJP/
JPT/
NM/
AH

It was suggested that we could ask Thomson-Reuter for a mailing list of e.g. highly cited Earth Scientists in return for promoting their new book citation product in relation to our SPs. AH

8 **2010 Marketing.** Paper PMC/11/09 was noted. A copy of the 2010 marketing plan is available from Neal Marriott on request.

9 **Any other business.** There was none.

10 **Date of next meeting** will be 3rd March in the morning. The Annual Publications Reception will be in the evening.