

# ABOUT AGU

## Extending AGU's Digital Library

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AGU has a long and proud history of publishing. The Union's most visible and stalwart publication, the *Journal of Geophysical Research (JGR)*, traces its roots to 1896, when the journal *Terrestrial Magnetism* first appeared. Since then, AGU's publications have come to include more than a dozen journals, books, maps, and the venerable *Eos Transactions*, which you are reading now.

By far, the largest amount of AGU's published output has been in the form of printed media. Print communications have served scholars for centuries, and they remain valuable. However, today's investigators expect to conduct research in the digital environment of the Internet, where material can be more easily found, accessed, and utilized. Consequently, it is common for scholarly publishers these days to convert their older, print content so that it is accessible and usable

on the Internet, a process often called 'retrospective digitization.' AGU is embarking on such a process.

The scale of AGU's retrospective digitization is substantial. We expect to process about 900,000 journal pages containing over 60,000 articles; nearly 150,000 book pages in over 600 books containing roughly 10,000 articles; and approximately 100,000 pages from the *Eos* shelf edition. We will also digitize a variety of ancillary publications, oversized maps, and microfiche containing supplementary data sets.

The project includes scanning all the pages and collecting bibliographic metadata for all these publications. The resulting digital products include PDF files for presentation, as well as content that can be deposited into a preservation repository for archival purposes, just as AGU's born-digital content is deposited now. The project also includes keying all of the article abstracts and refer-

ence lists. These files will extend the content of FastFind and the Earth and Space Index (EASI) and will permit links from the older references to the cited articles.

Most of the conversion will be done by outside professionals who specialize in this work. Since many organizations are engaged in digitization projects, pricing is competitive, and the work can be performed quickly. We expect to have the digitization completed by the end of 2006.

After we have all the digital assets in hand—perhaps 'on spindle' would be a better term—we will determine how to integrate the newly digitized materials for delivery on the AGU publishing platform. During 2007, we will bring this body of information online for the Earth and space science community.

When that happens, all of AGU's distinguished content will be literally at your fingertips.

—CURTIS COLLINS, Chair

For the Publications Committee: JEAN-LOUIS BOUGERET, JOHN COSTA, RUTH DEFRIES, JEFFREY FREYMUeller, JOYCE PENNER, ROSS STEIN, KIYOSHI SUYEHRO, AND XUBIN ZENG

## Council Clarifies Responsibilities of Authors

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At its 26 May 2006 meeting, Council approved a new definition for authorship in AGU publications. In recommending the change, the Publications Committee noted that it would provide researchers, particularly junior ones, with clearer guidance on what is expected of individuals who are named as authors. The revised statement, which is reproduced below, addresses questions that had come to the committee and recognizes recent expressions of concern about scientific integrity.

"To protect the integrity of authorship, only individuals who have significantly contributed to the research and preparation of the article should be listed as authors. All of these coauthors share responsibility for submitted articles. While not all coauthors may be familiar with all aspects of the research presented in their article, each should have in place an appropriate process for reviewing the accuracy of the reported results. A deceased person who met the criteria described here may be designated as an author. The corresponding author accepts the responsibility of having included as authors all persons who meet these criteria for authorship and none who do not. Other

contributors who do not meet the authorship criteria should be appropriately acknowledged in the article. The corresponding author also attests that all living coauthors have seen the final version of the article, agree with the major conclusions, and have agreed to its submission for publication."

Also at the May meeting, the Committee on International Participation proposed a Union award "to recognize an individual scientist or a small team for making an outstanding contribution to furthering the Earth and space sciences and using our science for the benefit of society in less favored nations." In doing so, the committee noted that AGU has been seeking ways to honor such individuals, many of whom often work under very difficult conditions, with limited resources, or against extraordinary challenges. Council authorized the establishment of the award with the understanding that its name will be approved by the Executive Committee. Opportunities for members to nominate appropriate candidates will be announced in *Eos*.

Council reaffirmed for two years the position statement entitled "The Importance of Archiving and Availability of Geophysical Data." It is expected that in those two years, a panel of members will prepare for Council

consideration one or more statements to be used for advocacy and/or for guiding the community on practices related to data. Because of the breadth of this issue, the panel is expected to include members throughout the world and possibly have representation from other societies. The position statement entitled "The Role of U.S. Government in Supporting Earth and Space Science Research" was reaffirmed for four years. These statements and all others adopted by AGU can be found at [www.agu.org/sci\\_soc/policy/sci\\_pol.html](http://www.agu.org/sci_soc/policy/sci_pol.html)

The Seismology Section request to establish a section award for young scientists was approved. The award will be named for recent Bowie Medalist Keiiti Aki.

In addition, there were a number of administrative actions such as acceptance of the report of the independent auditor; acceptance of the tellers report on the election of officers for the 2006–2008 term and authorization to destroy the ballots; and approval of changes to the Hydrology Section bylaws.

Council meetings are open to the membership. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting in San Francisco, Calif.