

Editorial

The Italian Journal of Geosciences is increasing its appeal among Geoscientists

During 2013 we completed the first turn over in the Editorial Board of the new course of the Italian Journal of Geosciences. Marco Balini (Milan), Hugo Bucher (Zürich), Simonetta Cirilli (Perugia), Laura Crispini (Genoa), Maurizio Mazzucchelli (Modena), and Giulio Ottonello (Genoa) took over Elisabetta Erba, Stefano Mazzoli, and Daniela Pantosti. Elisabetta, Stefano, and Daniela heavily served the journal in the 2010-2013 period. We all, also on behalf of the Italian Geological Society, warmly thank them for their dedication in helping to increase the scientific appeal of the journal since 2010. During 2014 José Maria Carcione will be appointed as new member of the Editorial Board to cover the expertise on the fields of: oil exploration, environmental geophysics, earthquake seismology, and theory of wave propagation and numerical modeling.

Impact of the journal

After the change of the title in 2010, when the *Bollettino della Società Geologica Italiana*, founded in 1881, merged with the *Bollettino del Servizio Geologico d'Italia*, officially adopting the new name *Italian Journal of Geosciences* (IJG), the journal has been indexed by the Journal of Citations Report (ISI) and Scopus, continuing the original track of the merged journals. The journal also entered GeoScienceWorld, a comprehensive internet resource for research across the geosciences, built on a database of peer-reviewed journals and integrated with GeoRef. In the GeoScienceWorld website all issues since 2009 (vol. 128) are fully available, whereas only abstracts are available for the 1972-2009 volumes. Visiting the GeoScienceWorld website at <http://www.geoscienceworld.org/> it is possible to exploit further offered resources about the journal.

In July 2013 the *Italian Journal of Geosciences* received the first impact factor (IF₂₀₁₂) of the new course. IF₂₀₁₂ is the average number of citations received during the 2012 per paper published in the 2010 and 2011 issues. According to ISI-JCR rules new journals that are indexed starting with a volume other than the first volume will not get an impact factor until they have been indexed for three years. The IF₂₀₁₂ for the IJG is 0.875 with a provisional 5-years impact factor of 0.982. The IF₂₀₁₂ is the highest reached also by the former *Bollettino della Società Geologica Italiana* since its indexing by ISI-JCR (tab. 1). The IJG has been assigned, by ISI-JCR, to the *Geosciences, Multidisciplinary* subject category, which groups the largest number of journals (2010-2011 = 172), with also the largest number of published articles (2010-2011 = 20,539) and of total cites (2012 cites for 2010-2011 published items = 665,294) of the entire Earth Sciences. The *Geosciences, Multidisciplinary* subject category collects also the Top₁₀ journals of the Earth Science discipline in term of IF (see tab. 2 in CONTICELLI, 2009), ranging from a maximum IF₂₀₁₂ value of 12.367 to a minimum IF₂₀₁₂ value of 0.081, a median IF₂₀₁₂ value of 1.440, and the 25th and 75th percentiles at 0.837 and 2.490, respectively (MAGRI & SOLARI, 1995; GAGOLEWSKI & GRZEGORZEWSKI, 2009). The

TABLE 1
Data from Journal of Citation Reports

	Journal Title	ISSN	Impact Factor	Articles	Subject Category	Quartile
IF ₂₀₁₂	Italian Journal of Geosciences	2038-1719	0.875	61	Geoscience, Multidisciplinary	Q3
IF ₂₀₁₁	Italian Journal of Geosciences Boll.Soc.Geol.Italiana	2038-1719 0037-8763	0.742	93	Geoscience, Multidisciplinary	Q4
IF ₂₀₁₀	Boll.Soc.Geol.Italiana	0037-8763	0.440	116	Geology	Q3
IF ₂₀₀₉	Boll.Soc.Geol.Italiana	0037-8763	0.663	98	Geology	Q3
IF ₂₀₀₈	Boll.Soc.Geol.Italiana	0037-8763	0.603	63	Geology	Q3
IF ₂₀₀₇	Boll.Soc.Geol.Italiana	0037-8763	0.553	125	Geology	Q3
IF ₂₀₀₆	Boll.Soc.Geol.Italiana	0037-8763	0.442	104	Geology	Q4

* The ISI-JCR provided two distinct IF. The value herewith reported for 2011 has been calculated according to ISI-JCR rules by the Editorial Office of the SGI in Rome.

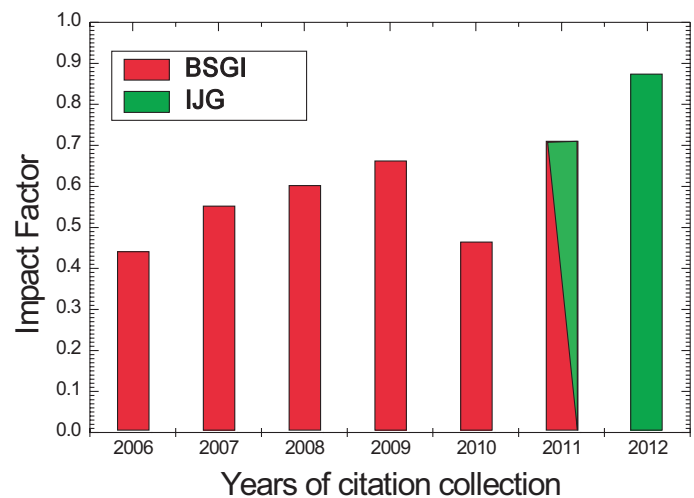


Fig. 1 - Impact Factor for the *Bollettino della Società Geologica Italiana* (red bars) and *Italian Journal of Geosciences* (green bar) parent/daughter journals. Note that IF₂₀₁₁ is calculated using data of both journals (i.e., 2009 = BSGI, 2010 = IJG).

IJG is positioned within the Q3 quartile, with an increasing ranking passing from the former publication to the new course journal.

Relevance and impact of an academic journal is measured using bibliometry, most notably the average number of citations of recent articles published in such journal (e.g., LEHMANN *et alii*, 2006; PENNER *et alii*, 2013). The Impact Factor is used as a proxy for assessing the relative importance of a journal within its field, with journals with higher impact factors deemed to be more important than those with lower ones. The *Bollettino della Società Geologica Italiana*, and then the *Italian Journal of Geosciences*, continuously increased year by year their scientific leverage in the Geoscience community (fig. 1).

As already noticed in the 2013 Editorial, joining GeoScienceWorld has increased the visibility of the *IJG* and its scientific appeal for the geo-scientific international community. During 2013 submissions originating from extra-European countries increased (fig. 2) and a large number of downloads from GeoScienceWorld originated as well from extra-European countries.

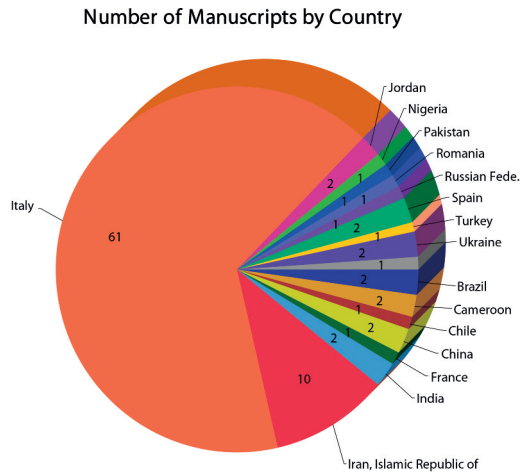


Fig. 2 - Pie-chart showing the provenance of submissions to Italian Journal of Geosciences during 2013. National submissions decreased to about 63 % with about 30% from extra-European scientists.

Looking ahead

Besides regular articles, the journal will continue to publish geological maps and thematic sets of papers. In 2013 the *Italian Journal of Geosciences* published the geologic maps and related papers on the “Upper Valdarno Basin” (GHINASSI & SAGRI, 2013), and on the “Sibillini Mounts” (PIERANTONI *et alii*, 2013, along with two thematic collections of papers on “Dynamics and active processes” (ROURE *et alii*, 2013) and “Fast slope movements” (CALCATERRA & GUADAGNO 2013), respectively.

Coming is the publication of the geological maps and related papers on the Cabo de Gata volcanic field, South-Eastern Spain, and on the Monte Amiata and adjoining areas, Central Italy. This confirms that the publication of geological maps is one of the major missions of the journal in the track of the two merged parent journals (i.e., *Bollettino della Società Geologica* and *Bollettino del Servizio Geologico d'Italia*). Still in the pipeline are two collections of papers on “Geologic leverage on marine habitats” and “Fractured carbonate reservoirs and fluid flow” proposed by FIORENTINO & D'ANGELO and by TONDI *et alii*, respectively.

The evaluation procedure

With regards to thematic issues, the *IJG* has a severe evaluation policy for both suggested themes and submitted manuscripts. Guest Editors are requested to submit a detailed project of the thematic issue with the list of possible contributions for the approval of the Editorial Board.

To ensure uniformity, regular submitted manuscripts and thematic issue manuscripts follow the same evaluation procedure, with a member of the Editorial Board responsible of each submitted manuscript.

This procedure guarantees the highest freedom of evaluation of the papers to the Associate Editors and Peer Reviewers and avoids conflicts in case of a Guest Editor being also Author of a paper for the thematic issue, or in the more general case of one Associate Editor being Author of a paper for the journal. To avoid further conflict of interests if the Editor-in-Chief submits a manuscript, the Editorial Board appoints a deputy Editor-in-Chief who takes such role during the evaluation procedure of the manuscript.

Marco Balini (Milan); Hugo Bucher (Zürich); Angelo Camerlenghi (OGS – Trieste); William Cavazza (Bologna); Raffaello Cioni (Firenze); Simonetta Cirilli (Perugia); Laura Crispini (Genoa); Sandro Conticelli (Firenze, Editor in Chief); Giovanni Crosta (Milano Bicocca); Claudio Faccenna (Roma TRE); Maurizio Mazzucchelli (Modena); Giulio Ottonello (Genoa).

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