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INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1936 to provide a focus for individuals interested in practical and scientific aspects of snow and ice. Membership is open to all individuals who have a scientific, practical or general interest in aspects of snow and ice study.

Papers on glaciology are printed in the *Journal of Glaciology*, which is published six times a year. The Society also publishes the *Annals of Glaciology*, a peer-reviewed, thematic journal, up to four times a year. The Society's news bulletin, *ICE*, is published three times a year.

The Society sponsors symposia, meetings and workshops in many countries throughout the year.

Journal of Glaciology publishes original articles and letters concerning scientific research into any aspect of ice and snow, and interactions between ice, snow, climate and other environmental phenomena including the biosphere and permafrost. Research techniques described in the Journal include, for example, field studies, remote sensing, computer modelling and laboratory studies. Research topics include the nature of and changes in mountain glaciers and ice sheets, including former ice sheets. For example, ice cores extracted from the glaciers and ice sheets reveal detailed information on past atmospheric composition and climate, and changes in the extent and thickness of the ice sheets are also related to climate change. The physical, chemical and crystallographic properties of ice and snow are included, especially but not only as they relate to the flow of ice and to past climate. The Journal also publishes studies of sea ice, and of icebergs, along with their interactions with climate on shorter time scales, and with the ocean. Snow and avalanche research is included in the Journal, with several recent articles investigating avalanche dynamics. Snow and ice on other planets is also within the realm of the Journal of Glaciology, as are studies of atmospheric ice.

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PREFACE

A collection of historic *Journal* covers adorns the cover page of the current journal issue before you. Starting in 2024, after 77 years of print publication, the *International Glaciological Society* (IGS) is now moving to online-only publication of both our *Journal of Glaciology* and *Annals of Glaciology*. This *Journal of Glaciology* Volume 69 Issue 278 is the final journal issue for which a paper copy will be issued.

Journal of Glaciology is the flagship scientific journal of the IGS and has been issued in print since 1947. All Issues since 1999 were digitized and made available online through the IGS website and Ingenta between 2011–15, and since 2016 all *Journal* issues have been available as Gold Open Access publications through *Cambridge University Press* (CUP) as well as simultaneously in print. Discontinuing print copies allows us to reduce our environmental impact, speed up time to publication in final citable form, and save cost. All 277 previously printed *Journal of Glaciology* issues, the current Issue 278, and all journal Volumes and online Collections henceforth, can be found on the Cambridge Core site (https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-glaciology).

In January 1947, the first issue of the *Journal of Glaciology* was published by the *British Glaciological Society*, which had grown out of the *Association for the Study of Snow and Ice*, formed in 1936, and ultimately changed its name to *International Glaciological Society* in 1972. The establishment of our *Journal* on all aspects of snow and ice was picked up by the journal *Nature*, which concluded its short announcement with, "The Journal promises to find a place among scientific periodicals of value" (Nature **159**(736), 1947). Indeed, our *Journal of Glaciology* has found its place, and will continue to do so into the future.

A concise history of our *Journal* was written by John W Glen (Glen, 2010: *J Glaciol* **56**(200)) who joined the journal in 1953 as an editorial assistant and remained on the *Journal*'s editorial board for 63 years. Glen's paper and various Presidents' Reports in the IGS newsletter *ICE* document the many transitions of our *Journal* in print format and style, printing companies, as well as in editorial handling and editorial staff. The first chief editor, Gerald Seligman, edited the *Journal* from his home in Kent, England, but later issues were handled from Cambridge and even printed in-house by the IGS. For the first 50 years or so, hard copies of manuscripts had to be sent through the mail to the editorial board and reviewers, until first email and ultimately online editorial software were available. Many volumes of the *Journal* contained papers presented at the annual meetings of the *British Glaciological Society*, and later the IGS symposia, where the discussion that followed was also printed with each paper. In 1980, the *Annals of Glaciology* took over this function of publishing conference-themed papers in a separate issue.

Although Volume 1 of the *Journal* already contained submissions from an international mélange of authors, and between 1959 and 1986, abstracts in both French and German were provided with each paper, the editorial board remained entirely composed of Britons until 1962. Up to the early 2010s, the editorial board was generally composed of one or two chief editors with support of a handful to about 20 advising or scientific editors. Since 2016, our editorial board has grown to a team of well over 30, with a Chief Editor, Associate Chief Editors, and Scientific Editors. Over the years the pool of editors and reviewers has also much internationalized and diversified.

Between 1947 and 2023, 69 volumes and 278 issues of *Journal of Glaciology* were printed plus a Special Issue Commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the IGS in 1987. If we lined up all 279 issues end to end, we reach a distance of ~75 m, which corresponds to the length of a medium iceberg, a medium snow avalanche, or an ice floe in the marginal sea-ice zone. If we lined up all the pages printed, we reach a distance of ~6 km, which is the length of an average-sized alpine glacier, a small rift in an Antarctic ice shelf, a large supraglacial lake on the Greenland ice sheet, or a wide thrust moraine complex. The number of authors published in the *Journal of Glaciology* now exceeds 10 000 and collaborative work has increased over the years. The vast majority of these authors have published multiple papers in our *Journal* – several of the most faithful authors close to 50 times – but the actual number of individual authors published in the *Journal* is still in the thousands.

With the final printed copy of the *Journal of Glaciology* now before you we acknowledge all the editors, editorial assistants and production staff, as well as all authors and reviewers going back to the inception of the *Journal*. Each individual effort along with the collective teamwork has enabled the *Journal* to serve the glaciological community for the past 77 years. As we say goodbye to bound hard copies, we look forward to a long and bright future for the *Journal*.

Hester Jiskoot
10th Chief Editor of the Journal of Glaciology

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