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## How to get published in *Groundwater*

**Henk Haitjema**  
Editor-in-Chief



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## *Groundwater* editors



Editor-in-Chief  
Henk Haitjema



Executive Editor  
Robert Schincariol



Executive Editor  
Yu-Feng Forrest Lin



Executive Editor  
Tom Missimer



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## To be discussed

- Types of articles
- How to be competitive for publication
- How to structure your article
- How to write your article
- The peer review process
- What are editors and reviewers looking for?
- How to promote your accepted article (Fiona Sarne – senior editor at Wiley)



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## *Groundwater*

**The leading international journal focused exclusively on groundwater.**

Emphasis is on presentations of theory with practical applications.

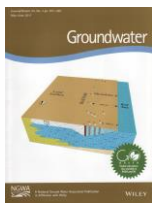
**Topics include** (among others):

- Groundwater flow modeling
- Well hydraulics
- Hydrogeochemistry
- Contaminant hydrogeology
- Geophysics
- Groundwater management and policy



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## So how to get your paper published?



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## *Groundwater*

**Have a contribution, such as:**

1. A new idea or finding. -> **Research Paper**
2. A new method. -> **Methods Note**
3. An innovative application of existing method. -> **Case Study Paper**
4. An in-depth review of what has been published on a topic of interest. -> **Review Paper**
5. A unique perspective on an important issue in the field of groundwater. -> **Issue Paper**
6. A clarification of a common misconception. -> **Technical Commentary**



## Your Contribution

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Clearly, but concisely, state your **contribution** in:

- Cover letter
- **Article Impact Statement** (<140 characters)
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Conclusions

Your contribution must be of interest to a *broad international audience* for it to be competitive for publication in a high ranking journal like *Groundwater*.

A case study of a local groundwater problem may be of great value to readers in that area or even country, but is often not of sufficient interest to an international readership to warrant publication in *Groundwater*.



## What is an Article Impact Statement?

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**Not** a mini abstract!!

**It tells the reader, in less than 140 characters, why (s)he should read this paper.**

A good example:

Dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in stacked aquifers over the Eagle Ford play is natural and mostly microbial. 91 characters

A bad example:

the biosorption of dyes of RO 13 and RB 5 onto dried *Auricularia auricula* biomass optimum values such as pH, contact time, temperature. 135 characters



## Case Study Paper

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There are three possible reasons to publish a Case Study Paper in *Groundwater*:

- 1) The paper features an **innovative approach** to solving a particular problem.
- 2) The study yielded a **surprising result** that should be of broad interest.
- 3) The paper provides **new insights** regarding the hydrogeology of a **region of interest** to a broad international audience.

@3: Case Study Papers of some regions in China (e.g. North China Plain) are good candidates for publication in the journal *Groundwater*.



## Use of English

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English has become the de facto international scientific language.

Mastering scientific writing in English is an essential prerequisite for successful submission of a paper to *any* international journal.

Poorly written manuscripts are rejected without review.

Marginally written manuscripts may fail the review process, because reviewers misunderstand the work and fail to recognize the contribution.



## How *Groundwater* may help...

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If "we" (editorial team and reviewers) find your manuscript meritorious but requiring English copy editing then we will not reject your paper, but request that you improve the English writing in one of the following ways:

- 1) Find a colleague with an understanding of the paper and good English writing skills to improve the English.
- 2) Use Wiley (publisher) English copy editing service.
- 1) Apply to *Groundwater* (EIC) for a *volunteer* English copy editor with knowledge in the field of the paper.

*Option 3) should be a last resort as we cannot promise to find such a volunteer!!*



## Organize your paper well

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- ✓ Title
- ✓ Authors
- ✓ Abstract
- ✓ Keywords
- ✓ Article Impact Statement

- ✓ Main body of the text
  - **Introduction**
  - **Methods/Approach**
  - **Results**
  - **Discussion**
  - **Conclusions**

- ✓ Acknowledgements
- ✓ References
- ✓ Supplementary material (online)





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## Title is the first thing that will be read

This is your opportunity to attract a reader's attention and citations!

- ✓ **An explicit title** can help attract citations e.g. state a key finding, or frame a question...
- ✓ Include **keywords** optimised for search engines: think of how your paper will be found, once published (e.g. Google)
- ✓ **Short** – typically up to 15 words
- ✓ **First write the title – then the paper!** Could help you orient yourself to the main topic.



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## Abstract is the next thing read

- ✓ **Most publishers make all abstracts free to access**
- ✓ **Maximum 200 - 250 words** (check with the journal guidelines)
- ✓ What is this paper about, what was found, and why should I read it?
- ✓ Write in past tense
- ✓ No citations, avoid non-standard abbreviations
- ✓ **Most Important: First and last sentence**



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## Main body of the text

- **Introduction:** Offer background, literature review, and state *how your paper contributes* to this.
- **Method:** Present data, analysis, or modeling strategy.
- **Results:** Present and explain results of data analyses or modeling.
- **Discussion:** Make comparisons with earlier work.
- **Conclusions:** Concisely state what was learned. Avoid new analyses or discussions at this point.

**Produce high quality and artistic figures.** A good picture is worth a thousand words! Include all pertinent references, but avoid excessive self-referencing.



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## Writing style

Break your text up in sections, sub-sections, and paragraphs.

Write concisely. Reread frequently and ask yourself how can I shorten the text.

Build your story logically. Do not go back and forth on a topic. This means that you will be moving text around a lot.

Read a lot of papers to see what writing style you like and then adopt it.



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## Conclusions

- ✓ Editors may reject your paper based only on reading the abstract and the conclusions.
- ✓ Many readers will only read the abstract and conclusions of your published paper.
- ✓ **Summarize your main findings.**
- ✓ Draw **pertinent conclusions** from your work.
- ✓ Do not present new findings (not already described in the paper).
- ✓ Do not announce new work.



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## References

- ✓ **Cite the main scientific publications** on which your
- ✓ Avoid **excessive self-citations**
- ✓ Use a **search engine** to identify all **relevant** publications.
- ✓ Nothing insults a Reviewer more than when you omitted his/her work on the same topic.
- ✓ Nothing insults an Editor more than when you omitted relevant publications from the journal to which you submit.



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Make sure to download the Example Manuscript for *Groundwater*

Bookstore  
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**For Authors and Reviewers:**

Welcome authors and reviewers! This online peer review system contains up-to-date information for all current papers and reviews.

Please use the links located in the navigation bar to obtain information that will familiarize you with the system before logging on to the system by system.

For more information, contact the NGWA Dir

Proceed to the *Groundwater* online peer review system:

- Types of Articles Published in *Groundwater*
- Peer review timelines
- Prepare a research paper
- Submission policies
- Groundwater Peer Review
- Author forms
- Yelp review
- Example Manuscript for *Groundwater***
- Example Review of a Paper in *Groundwater*
- How to Get Published (PowerPoint presentation)



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## Groundwater review process

**Executive Editor (EE)** assigns an *Associate Editor (AE)* and volunteer reviewers. The EE corresponds with the AE and the reviewers.

*Groundwater* has approximately 70 Associate Editors with various areas of expertise and from various countries.

The Executive Editor drafts a decision on a paper for consideration by the Editor-in-Chief. The EIC corresponds with the authors.



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## Groundwater Review process

- Editor-in-Chief rejects ~ 30% of submissions outright.
- Based on external reviews, another ~30% of submissions are being rejected.

Primary reasons for rejection (in order of importance):

- Lack of a meritorious contribution
- Contents is technically flawed
- Poor organization of the manuscript (incl. poor figures)
- Poor use of English is obscuring the contribution



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## What is a “meritorious contribution”?

Something not already known or done!

Make sure to review top ranking journals in the field of groundwater. [Do online searches!](#)  
When submitting to the journal *Groundwater* definitely search for related [publications in \*Groundwater\*](#) (search online Wiley library)!

Note: A research project that leads to an excellent master’s thesis does not necessarily qualify as a meritorious contribution to *Groundwater*.



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## Editors and reviewers look for the contribution of your paper in:

- Title
- Abstract
- Article Impact Statement
- Introduction
- Conclusions



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## Instructions to the reviewers

### INSTRUCTIONS

To accept OR decline this invitation, please click on the URL link below, follow the RED arrows, and click on either “accept” or “decline”. If you accept, you will be able to view and print the manuscript. PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH THE MANUSCRIPT AND THE OFFICIAL REVIEW FORM ARE ONLINE; NOTHING WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.

Please remember that, until publication, manuscripts are privileged communications that should not be shown to others. This does not preclude consulting colleagues when preparing your review.

I request you start your review with some general observations regarding the manuscript and your recommendation to reject, accept with revisions, or accept as is. If you recommend acceptance after revisions then follow these introductory comments by an “enumerated list of editorial comments” to which the author must respond at the time of submitting a revised manuscript. You may download some more information by [clicking here](#).

Your comments on the technical aspects of the paper are essential. It is usually not necessary to comment on specific problems of English usage unless they compromise or obscure technical aspects of the presentation. If the paper is plagued by poor English, please note this in your general comments.

If you have questions or need more information, please send a message to the Executive Editor by responding to this e-mail message.

### ABSTRACT

Major fault zones in mountain areas are often associated with cold-water circulations and hydrothermal



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## How does (should) a review look?

In paragraph 1 summarize the essence of the paper.

In paragraph 2 offer your opinion on the paper discussing the main points of concern or praise.

End paragraph 2 with a clearly stated recommendation. For example: *I recommend that the paper be accepted only after major revisions.*

End the review with specific editorial comments tied to specific lines in the text. For example:

*Line 123:* Your statement that the earth is flat requires some references, preferably recent ones.  
*Line 322:* "Spacial" must be "spatial".



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Some practice-oriented papers on groundwater contamination may lack the scientific innovation for publication in *Groundwater*, but might be very suitable for NGWA's journal:



Neil R. Thomson, PhD, PEng  
 Editor-in-Chief

*Groundwater Monitoring & Remediation (GWMR)*

Similar publishing guidelines apply to this NGWA journal.



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## What is new in *Groundwater*?



Cover image from one of the articles in the issue

- Automatic plagiarism check
- Article Impact Statement
- Graphical Abstract
- Suggested Reviewers
- Accepted Manuscript View

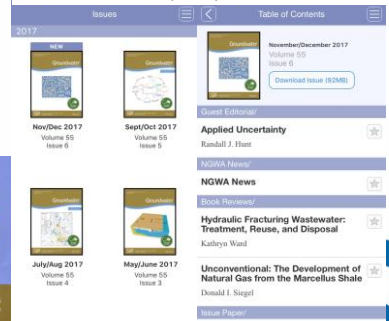


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## Groundwater on your phone

Download the Groundwater App for iPhone or Android.

Screen shots from iPhone (or iPad)



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Questions?

