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Helping Fledgling Journals Leave the Nest

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Helping Fledgling Journals Leave the Nest: Soliciting Articles

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If libraries want to be taken seriously as publishers they need to provide services commensurate to those of traditional publishers.
The Work of the Editors Begins

* # 9 “Solicitation of materials”

* Soliciting articles should start as early as possible

* Multiple methods should be exploited and should go beyond list-serves and emails
From the Editors

* Sent questionnaires to all the editors of our new OA journals

* Found out how they tried to solicit articles, and how well it worked
Journal of Geospatial Applications in Natural Resources

- Posted flyers with all accredited forestry programs in the country

- Posted flyers at national and regional conferences.
The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, in conjunction with Stephen F. Austin State University, publishes the Journal of Geospatial Applications in Natural Resources with The Center for Digital Scholarship via bepress. The focus of the journal is to publish via a rapid double-blind peer-review process articles that apply geospatial technology to quantify, qualify, map, monitor, and manage natural resources.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit manuscripts ready for the peer-review process for the premier issue scheduled in early 2016. We are confident that this exciting new opportunity will allow natural resource professionals an outlet for their applied geospatial research within a natural resource context.

Specific information regarding the Journal of Geospatial Applications in Natural Resources Author Guidelines, Author Template Guide, and its Aims and Scope please email: unger@sfasu.edu

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Other Journals Took Different Routes
The journal has a board of 22 editors

The executive editor works with board members who can serve as editors or reviewers

Dr. Robbie Steward set up a three step process for selecting editors to prepare them to solicit articles
Cast a Broad Net When Recruiting Editors

* Wanted to recruit both National and International scholars as editors

* Wanted all disciplines in Human Services represented
Editors who demonstrate a commitment to take on the expected workload
Editors who demonstrate through training their willingness to work in a positive way with scholars even if their submission was rejected
Editors that understood and desired to achieve a high level of competitiveness and impact envisioned by Dr. Steward
Solicit Articles Through Newly Created Social Network

- Solicit articles from editorial board
- Additionally editors where to solicit articles from their own campus
- Finally editors contacted colleagues and prior students from other campuses
Is published for the Professors of Middle Level Education in Texas a regional affiliate association

Distributed flyers at several discipline related conferences

Talked with and solicited articles from presenters at the association’s regional and national conferences
What Else Did They Have to Say

* It was difficult to recruit enough reviewers
* If they had gone out and beat the bushes for articles they could have doubled their submissions
* They needed to work harder to get all of the editors involved in soliciting articles
* They appreciated the library's support and leadership and wanted to know how they could solicit more submissions
Some Best Practices

- Start early, content is almost always the hold up
- Take advantage of targeted professional organizations
- Use or even create social networks
- Use individual relationships with colleagues you already know
- Approach speakers at related conferences
- Still use emails and listservs
Some Additional Tricks to Try

* Showcase best article on list-serve
* Search databases for articles that you wish had been in your journal and contact the author
* Use Google Scholar to find these articles and contact authors that cited the article or that wrote related articles
* Use Digital Commons
Thank You

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