

Biennial report from the Publicity Committee, August 2018

The Publicity Committee has consisted of Dirk-Ingmar Müller-Wohlfeil (the chair of the Publicity Committee), Chong-Yu Xu (the head editor of Hydrology Research since January 2012) and Karin Nyström (the web-editor of www.nhf-hydrology.org)

The action points of the Publicity Committee for the period August 2014–August 2018 have been:

- Keep the website updated
- Keep the flyer updated, make it downloadable from the website and distribute
- Announce NHC through the website and e-mail
- Produce a biennial report about the activities of the Publicity Council for the General Assembly

The website, www.nhf-hydrology.org

The website is updated regularly, including uploading revised versions of the flyer, news about upcoming activities – mainly NHC 2018 - and minutes from the board meetings. The last update of the flyer was made in August 2016 and an update will be required after the GA 2018. During the last two years, e-mail addresses to members have been collected from all the member countries. The NHC 2018 and the GA 2018 have been announced on the website and through available e-mail addresses. The NHF Twitter account NHF Hydrology (NHF Hydrology) has been used frequently to announce NHF related activities.

Preparation of a questionnaire among members of NHF on Hydrology Research to increase awareness interest in the association

In 2015 the British Hydrology Society (BHS) has carried out a membership survey regarding the journal "Hydrology Research" to find the member's opinion about the journal. A similar, online survey will be carried out among the NHF-members after the NHC 2018. The draft version of the survey consists of 22 questions:

1. What institution sector do you work in?
2. Would you describe yourself as primarily researcher / practitioner etc.
3. What single descriptor best describes your 'niche' in hydrology?
4. Do you know "Hydrology Research"?
5. Are you aware that "Hydrology Research" is the 'official journal of the NHF'?
6. Do you have a personal subscription to *Hydrology Research*?
7. Do you have access to an institutional subscription to *Hydrology Research*?
8. Which journals do you access and how frequently do you access them?
9. What are your favorite hydrological journals?
10. If "Hydrology Research" is among the favorite journals, please specify its strength
11. If "Hydrology Research" is not among the favorite journals, can you suggest improvements?
12. What does having an 'official' journal mean to you?
13. What do you think the role of an 'official' journal should be within NHF?
14. Have you presented a paper / poster at a NHF Conference since 2000?
15. Have you published a paper in Hydrology Research arising from your conference paper?

16. Have you published a paper in another hydrology journal arising from your NHF conference paper / poster?
17. Were you aware that you could have published your paper in Hydrology Research?
18. If you did not consider Hydrology Research for publication, and/or published elsewhere, what were your reasons for not doing so via *Hydrology Research*?
19. Have you published a paper in Hydrology Research since 2000 that was not linked to a BHS Symposium?
20. What are your views on the suitability/ scope of the current stated scope of the journal?
21. What is your view on introducing an annual/biannual special issue on 'The State of Scandinavian and Baltic Hydrology'?
22. What are the 3 most important things you would like to say about the future of Hydrology Research as the NHF journal?

The journal, Hydrology Research

The XXIX Nordic Water conference was held at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, on 8–10 August 2016. In total, over 80 abstracts were submitted from 16 countries, including Nordic and Baltic countries, where most contributions came from, as well as China, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Japan, Poland, Portugal and Russia. After the conference, authors were given the opportunity to submit their original contributions for publication in a special issue of *Hydrology Research*. All submitted papers were evaluated and discussed by a scientific committee. After a rigorous peer-review process, 15 papers were accepted for publication in the special issue of Hydrology Research Vol 49(2) covering the range of the conference themes. Great thanks to the editors and reviewers of HR as well as to Dr. Diana Meilutytė-Lukauskienė for the excellent work in editing the special issue. It has been agreed that this year's Nordic Water conference in Bergen will again lead to a special issue.

The number of ordinarily received papers has increased gradually in recent years, submissions in 2014 and 2015 are 321 and 333 respectively. In the years of 2016 and 2017 are around 600. But good quality papers are remaining in a very low percentage. Many papers are in so poor quality that have to be rejected directly by the editors (about 50%), which increased remarkably the amount of work for the editors, since they need to do a pre-review for all the submitted papers. The final rejection rates are around 75-85% during the last few years, higher than most of the hydrological journals. There is clearly a need to increase the share of high quality papers reflecting the scope of the journal, including papers from the Nordic/Baltic countries and from the UK, Germany and Italy.

In order to maintain a quick and high quality review and publication process, it was decided by IWA, BHS, NHF and the two editors to assign 5 Associate Editors since 2017. Four of these 5 Associate Editors are from NHF (2), BHS (1), and IHS (1). The Associate Editors assist the Editors in handling special Issue papers as well as some of ordinary papers within their specialty.

The cooperation with IWA Publishing runs smoothly and the joint editorship with BHS (British Hydrological Society) is also functioning well. There is an annual meeting (normally in December) involving IWA, BHS, NHF and the two editors where all the issues related to the journal are discussed. The NHF also discussed the possibility for authors in Hydrology Research to provide free access to articles at by paying a fee. Discussion on this issue continues.

The journal is in good shape, impact factor increased this year from 1.754 to 1.801. The biggest challenge is to attract a sufficient number of good quality papers. It is hoped that BHS, NHF, and the Italian and German Hydrological Societies (IHS and GHS) can encourage their members to submit their good work to Hydrology Research. The number of papers per issue has doubled from 2012.

Since 1980 there has been a tradition for awarding the best paper published in Hydrology Research (previously Nordic Hydrology) and the prize has been awarded every second year at the Nordic Hydrological Conference (NHC). The winning paper is chosen based on high scientific and technical quality standards with also consideration of geographic distribution. The selection is usually done by the Editorial members of Nordic and Baltic countries together with the editor, Chong-Yu Xu. The selection of the best paper published during 2016–2017 has been completed, and result has been reported to NHF, after approval, the diploma will be presented by the Chief Editor of NHF, Chong-Yu Xu to the authors of the awarded paper during the Bergen conference.