

Journal of Sedimentary Research

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS

In addition to conventional research articles JSR offers four other forums for presentation. *All* JSR contributions should be concise and have broad appeal.

Current Ripples are short, high-impact, provocative papers on sedimentary geology. JSR's goal for these types of papers is to provide a speedy outlet for new, data-supported research results.

Published *Current Ripples* are not restricted to any maximum page length, but four to six JSR pages is typical (including abstract, references, tables, figures, and captions as well as main text -- about 5600 words, plus spaces).

Perspectives papers are not reviews in the conventional sense, but rather offer the possibility for *critical* or *explanatory* review of broad topics of interest to JSR readers. The *Perspectives* forum is an ideal place to present the outlines of an overarching theory that can be used to systematize and guide our understanding within some area of research. These papers could be described as "scientific editorials," in the sense that they offer readers a views and opinions that, while particular to the author, are also carefully documented and supported with data and conclusions garnered from a body of peer-reviewed literature. *Perspectives* contributions serve the research community by describing the current status of an area of research, the key outstanding questions that may exist, the key obstacles that stand in way of progress, and possible strategies for confronting these obstacles. Although authors of *Perspectives* papers can freely advocate a particular approach or school of thought, readers will expect to be informed of the full context of this opinion, including the various divergent schools of thought and opinion that may exist and the weaknesses and strengths thereof.

Perspectives articles are not restricted to any maximum page length, but are generally expected to fall within the same length as research papers.

Research Methods papers are succinct descriptions of new field or laboratory devices, or field, laboratory or data analysis techniques that will be of interest to a large number of sedimentary geologists.

Manuscripts submitted for publication will be judged on the bases of originality, potential usefulness of the method to JSR's diverse readership, presentation, technical soundness, feasibility, and safety. The described methodology should be practical from the viewpoints of cost, complexity, and utility. There is a high likelihood that the manuscript will be declined if the described methodology is prohibitively expensive, requires considerable technical expertise to construct or operate, is designed for only narrow or highly specialized purposes, or represents only a marginal or specialized improvement over existing methods.

Authors should carefully consider whether a separate methods paper is needed to convey their new ideas, or whether the method could be described equally well as part of a research paper that utilizes results generated from the method. In the latter case, individual web sites and digital journal archives now provide mechanisms to deliver details that would generally not be included in a normal research paper.

All necessary information for the construction or application of the new methodology should be provided in the paper. If a new device is being described, then a parts list and a schematic that shows how the parts are assembled should be provided, thus insuring that the interested reader can successfully construct their own version. If this information is too lengthy or complex, the author should indicate that it is available upon request or through reference to information archived at the SEPM data archive, with links available from the JSR web site.

Manuscripts must have an abstract, but concluding summaries should be omitted and essential acknowledgments worked into the text. If appropriate, examples of data gathered with the new method should be illustrated so as to demonstrate the method's utility or advantages. References to specific commercial companies should be limited to avoid appearance of product endorsement. Pertinent citations (references) and illustrations may be included.

Discussion papers raise issues of broad interest concerning papers recently published in JSR and must serve to provide readers with important context for evaluating the paper's data or conclusions. Discussion papers must be brief (1-2 printed pages is typical) and tightly focused on point(s) of substance within the paper being discussed. *Discussions* may draw attention to data and ideas that are available in the scientific literature, but may not introduce new data or concepts (i.e., must not overlap into the sphere of research papers). Possible discussion papers must be submitted within 6 months of the publication date of the paper being discussed. In the interest of timely publication, *Discussion* submissions are typically evaluated by the Editors using advice from one or more Associate Editors.

