

‘Paper Profiling’ and online publication

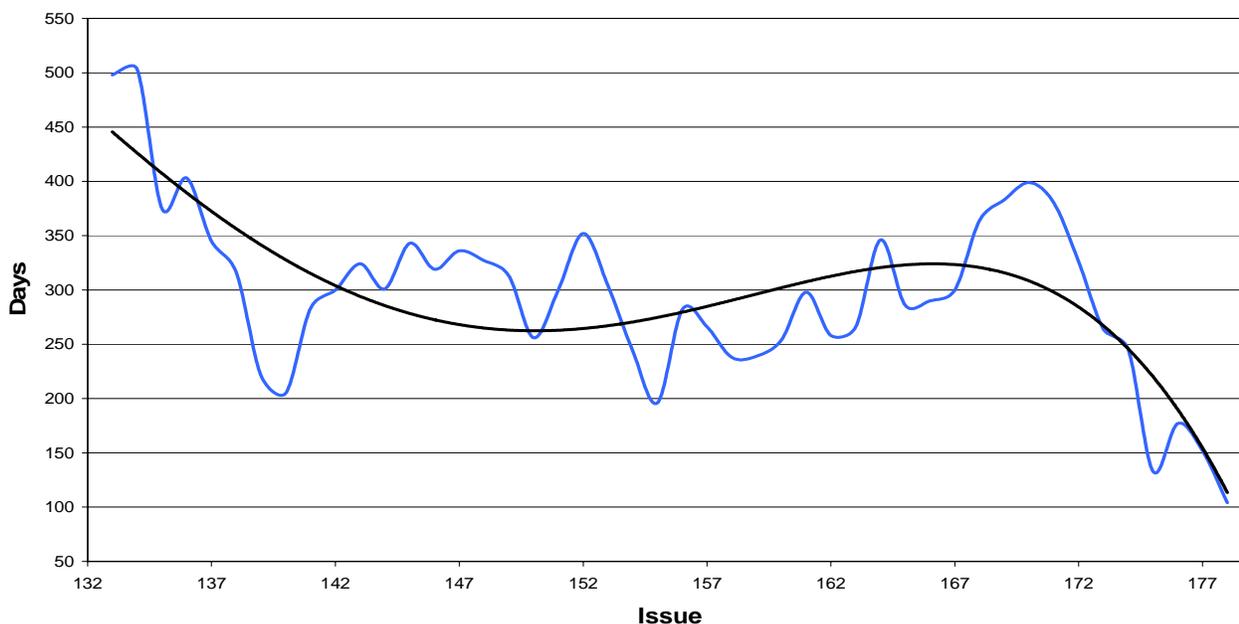
To attract a greater number of topical, newsworthy and broad interest papers, the IGS has introduced a new submission procedure for the Journal of Glaciology, called ‘Paper Profiling’. The aim is to raise the profile of the paper, and the Journal, by drawing the attention of the media to it. The scheme is aimed at a small number (1–2 per volume) of topical papers that would particularly benefit from a fast turnaround without the typical word or page restrictions of other publications. The aims are (a) to increase the attractiveness of the Journal to authors of this type of paper and (b) to raise the profile of the Journal and the IGS within the media and wider scientific community.

Authors can request ‘Paper Profiling’ by contacting the Chief Editor directly with a one page summary of why the paper should be ‘profiled’. Ideally, the authors should contact the Chief Editor prior to submitting the paper to allow more time to recruit the reviewers.

The profiled papers will be handled, initially, by the Journal Chief Editor who will manage the review process in consultation with an appropriate scientific editor. The scientific editor will request that the reviewers complete the review in less than three weeks. If they are unable to do so, other reviewers will be sought. On return of the revised manuscript the editor will process it immediately and, if accepted, will send the manuscript on to the Cambridge office where it will also be processed immediately and published as a lead paper in the next issue of the Journal. The IGS will issue a press release in collaboration with the authors and their institute.

The IGS first tried ‘Paper Profiling’ with a paper by Zwally and others that appeared in issue 175. We were able to process that paper in twelve weeks, from submission to appearing in print. The second paper to be profiled in this way is by Jenkins and others and this is the lead paper in issue 178. A press release will be issued by the British Antarctic Survey profiling the paper. This will coincide with the publication on the IGS website. This launches a new practice by the IGS of publishing papers online on the IGS website as soon as proofs have been corrected by the author and proofread by the IGS house editor.

Updating production procedures at the IGS has already improved publication times (see graph below). Immediate online publication should continue this trend.



— Average time between acceptance and publication