



## EGU journal news: new impact factors, h5-index and an anniversary

EGU journals now display the most recent Thomson Reuters Impact Factors (IFs), which were published on 29 July in Journal Citation Reports. Earth System Dynamics received its first impact factor (IF 2.771), while publications such as Geoscientific Model Development (IF 6.086), The Cryosphere (IF 4.374) and Solid Earth (IF 2.155), significantly improved their impact in the past year. Three of EGU's journals (Geoscientific Model Development, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, and The Cryosphere) are now in the [top 20 of journals in geoscience](#).

Our publisher Copernicus has also recently included the new Google Scholar Metrics h5-index, released at the end of June 2014, on the EGU journal pages. The index is based on citations from all articles indexed with Google Scholar as of mid-June 2013 and covers papers published between 2009 and 2013. According to this metric, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics is the top journal in atmospheric sciences with an h5-index of 89. Other EGU journals, such as Hydrology and Earth System Sciences (h5-index 39) and Climate of the Past (h5-index 33), are also in the top 20 of their respective categories.

Finally, a quick note to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Biogeosciences, which had its first paper published in August 2004. Congratulations! For further information, check the [announcement on the journal website](#).



A few of EGU's publications

We are grateful to all authors, reviewers and editors of EGU's open access journals for their invaluable help in increasing the impact of EGU publications and making them a success.

*An earlier version of this article was [published on the EGU website](#).*

## EGU 2015 General Assembly: call for sessions



The call for session proposals for the EGU 2015 General Assembly is now open. This is your opportunity to take an active part in organising the scientific programme of the conference!

**Until 12 September** you can suggest new sessions with conveners and description, or you can propose modifications to current ones. On the EGU 2015 General Assembly website, you can explore the skeleton programme when making suggestions. Study those sessions that already exist and put your proposal into the programme group that is most closely aligned with the proposed session's subject area. For further information, please check the online call for sessions at <http://www.egu2015.eu/>.

The next EGU General Assembly is taking place in Vienna, Austria from 12 to 17 April 2015. The abstract deadline is 7 January.

*An earlier version of this article was [published on the EGU 2015 website](#).*

## New communications officer at the EGU

Laura Roberts Artal, a Spanish and British national, is the newest member of EGU's communications team. She will manage GeoLog and the EGU blog network, run the Union's social media channels, and continue developing EGU's networking activities for young scientists. She'll be working closely with the EGU Media and Communications Manager, Bárbara Ferreira, at the EGU Executive Office in Munich, Germany.

Laura completed an undergraduate masters in geology at the University of Liverpool, where she investigated how and why magma/water interactions lead to typically explosive eruptions. Once she graduated, she spent three years in industry as an environmental consultant working on land contamination issues, before returning to Liverpool University to undertake a PhD researching whether the Earth had a magnetic field during the Archean, 3.5 billion years ago.

During her PhD, Laura has become an advocate for science outreach and communication. This has led her to regularly volunteer for the [STEM \(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics\) Ambassador Network](#) and [Science Grrl](#) at outreach and public engagement events across the UK. She has designed and developed interactive activities for children and adults alike to raise the profile of Earth sciences amongst the general public. Laura has also been conducting communications activities within the EGU network, as one of the contributors to the [Geology Jenga](#) network blog. Laura says: "I am extremely excited by this new challenge and looking forward to spreading the word about all things Earth science



The new EGU Communications Officer, Laura Roberts Artal.

via the EGU blog and the wide variety of social media platforms that EGU has a presence in." You can find Laura on Twitter ([@LauraRob85](#)), or you can drop her an email at [roberts@egu.eu](mailto:roberts@egu.eu) if you have any questions.

The EGU is very grateful to Sara Mynott, former EGU Communications Officer, for the excellent work she developed while working for us. We wish her all the best in her marine biology PhD at the University of Exeter.

An earlier version of this article was [published on the EGU blog](#).

## Open geoscience

*In a post on the EGU blog, GeoLog, former EGU Communications Officer Sara Mynott explores ways in which geoscientists can make their research more widely accessible.*

Not so long ago I was in a meeting with EGU's young scientist representatives, who had gathered online to discuss the issues facing those early in their academic careers. One member of this dedicated team put forward a compelling notion: that the future of open access is in the hands of today's early-career researchers. This post aims to answer the question that followed: "how could EGU's team of eager early-career researchers help their peers grab hold of the open opportunities out there?" By offering up a few routes to open science...

A lot of hard work, carefully created **figures** and data don't make it to your publications, but they are still a useful part of the scientific process and can help other scientists if they can see what you found. A great way to share this sort of information is on [Figshare](#) – and it's citable too.



Free the work from your desktop folders. (Credit: [opensource.com](https://opensource.com))

The same goes for conference **presentations** – don't let them gather dust on your desktop. The aim of a conference is to share your work more widely, so, when you're done, put your slides up on sites like [SlideShare](#) to share it beyond the conference. Keep your contact details in the presentation and you could find yourself with new collaborators.



**Posters** can be made open too. After our annual General Assembly, we invite authors to upload their posters and presentations, but there's no need to restrict your openness to the EGU conference. [F1000 posters](#) is an open access repository for posters in biology, so if your work bridges the biogeosciences, be sure to submit it there. If you're in another field, try Figshare (despite the name, it's not just for figures!).

The [EGU offers a number of open access journals](#) for the Earth, planetary and space sciences, but there are many more **journals** where you can publish your work, if the scope of EGU journals doesn't quite cover your field. The American Geosciences Institute hosts a comprehensive list of [open geo journals](#) on their website, and the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) is exactly what it says on the tin – a hub of high quality open access publications. The stringent criteria required to enter their database means that predatory open access journals are filtered out.

But what about **impact**? Going open doesn't mean lower impact, in fact, with your paper being openly available to all, it's more likely to be seen and cited, so the [impact at the article level](#) could well be higher than if it was in a subscription-based publication. You can track the impact of your research outputs using [ImpactStory](#), or by using the [Altmetric bookmarklet](#) to keep tabs on more than just citations, from where it's featured in news articles and blog posts to where it's been mentioned on social media and more.

The [European Research Council](#) considers that providing free online access to publications is the most effective way of ensuring that the fruits of the research it funds can be accessed, read and used as the basis for further research. Many **funders** are also

moving in this direction, providing further incentive to publish open access papers.

When your manuscript is ready, submit it to a **preprint** server (e.g., [arxiv.org](#), [peerj.com](#), or [biorxiv.org](#)). EGU papers have an open review process, which helps ensure the assessment of a submitted manuscript is thorough and fair, but it also means that the science is out in the open sooner – the merit of a preprint. This helps establish precedence, highlighting that you were working on something first, and can remove barriers to scientific progress (we all know peer review can take a while!). Some establishments aren't a fan of this though; so before you put a preprint online, check [Sherpa/Romeo](#) to make sure your institute, funding body and the journal(s) you're interested in are on board with the benefits of preprints.

Models are near ubiquitous in the geosciences and their importance in assessing the impact of climate change goes without saying. But what if you couldn't replicate the results of, say, an important climate model? You would need to go back to the model's **code** and see where your calculations and the ones before differed. Sharing code is compulsory for journals like [Geoscientific Model Development](#), but many don't stipulate the need to share it. You can go one step further to help your community by sharing your code on [GitHub](#), whether it's compulsory for your latest article or not.

With all these opportunities to go open, wouldn't it be great if you had an opportunity to keep track of all your outputs? There's an answer for that too – [ORCID](#). ORCID is a **unique researcher identifier** that links all your research outputs, from manuscripts and conference abstracts to grant submissions and research figures, ensuring you get credit for the work you do.

For something less formal, but perhaps more open in that you can go beyond the academic community, try **blogging** about your research – we readily welcome guest posts on [GeoLog](#), but there are many places you can set your science free. Try [The Conversation](#), [SciLogs](#), pitching your idea to another geoscience blogger or better yet, establishing your own blog to write on. You can also go further to promote your research and facts about your field on **social media** – a great way to form connections with other academics and put your work in the public eye.

These are just a few thoughts on open geoscience, but there are likely more ways to go open than could ever be summarised in a single post. Take this as a starting point, seek out more options for yourself, and, if you already have a few tips on how to make geoscience more open, spread the word.

Sara Mynott

Former EGU Communications Officer (from September: PhD student in marine biology at the University of Exeter)

This article was previously [published on the EGU blog](#).