

SOME SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES FOR THE *JOURNAL OF CAVE AND KARST STUDIES*

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This issue of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* marks a few milestones. First, it marks the close of my second year as Editor which, for me, is a considerable achievement. The quality of papers received for publication and the assistance I have received from the *Journal* Advisory Board, Associate Editors, and Reviewers have had the combined effect of making for an impressive journal and making me look good. For this, I am very thankful. However, I still need to ask that more individuals working on cave and karst studies consider submitting their work to the *Journal* for publication. We are especially looking for papers dealing with conservation and exploration.

A second milestone is the acceptance of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* in the Directory of Open Access Journals which is an on-line Web (<http://www.doaj.org>) service that lists only those journals that allow full access to their published papers. The *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* was invited to submit an application for consideration and was accepted immediately. Searching this site using such key words as caves or karst will lead to a listing of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* which is linked to the National Speleological Society Web site where the *Journal* is maintained.

The third milestone deals with a profound collaboration between several karst-related journals as initiated by Jo De Waele, Editor in Chief of the *International Journal of Speleology*. Dr. De Waele recognized that the various karst journals worldwide are complementary and that there should be significant collaboration between the respective journals. As part of this collaboration, this issue of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* lists the titles and authors of the most recently published issues of *Acta Carsologica*, *Cave and Karst Science*, *International Journal of Speleology*, *Subterranean Biology*, and *Theoretical and Applied Karstology*. The current issue of the *International Journal of Speleology* is publishing the contents of the last issue of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* (Vol. 67 No. 2) and will continue to publish the contents of our *Journal* so long as the contents are sent on to them. Hopefully, more cave and karst journals worldwide will begin providing the contents of their journals for publication in each cave and karst journal currently in existence.

The fourth milestone is similar to the second and third. *Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers*, a virtual on-line scientific journal (<http://www.speleogenesis.info/>), now prominently advertises the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* on its web site and lists the contents of the most recent issue with a link to the National Speleological Society web site where our *Journal* is maintained. As with the other milestones, this is a significant achievement because our *Journal* appears with other similar journals in the field and suggests that the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* is one of a group of highly respected journals specializing in cave and karst studies.

The fifth and final milestone is perhaps the most significant. In June 2003, ISI Services began formally listing the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* (thanks to the efforts of the previous editor, Dr. Louise Hose). A substantial value related to an ISI listing is the calculated impact factors generated for papers published in the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* based on cited references to the papers. Well, the year 2005 marks the third year of ISI listing. This means that the 2005 edition of the *Journal Citation Reports* will now begin listing impact factors for our *Journal*. This is a monumental accomplishment for the field of cave and karst studies and something of which the members of the National Speleological Society can be very proud.

I would like to close with a very heartfelt thank you to all involved with the *Journal*. Without the support of those briefly listed at the beginning of this editorial, the accomplishments described would not have been possible. Please continue submitting quality research to the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* and please continue making the *Journal* the best it can possibly be.