

Subject: Re: Space Weather Journal

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 3:54:49 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Phil Wilkinson

To: Brooks Hanson

CC: Daniel.Baker@LASP.colorado.edu, David.Boteler@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca, opg@irfu.se, Robert Robinson, bothmer@astro.physik.uni-goettingen.de, norma.crosby@oma.be, gene.fisher@noaa.gov, Giles, Barbara (GSFC-6730), JKappenma@aol.com, kataoka.ryuho@nipr.ac.jp, delores.knipp@colorado.edu, joseph.mazur@aero.org, mccoynr@onr.navy.mil

Hi Brooks,

Sorry I could not join in on Wednesday, I was recuperating, uncomfortably, after a successful medical procedure. I'm now back home obeying orders from the dr.

Richard Marshall, one of my staff before I retired, has published in Space Weather and I asked his thoughts. I felt his reply was very well framed.

"About a year ago I was looking through the AGU journal publications and Space weather publications, albeit smaller than other journals, appeared to be continuing to increase. As you mention, I think Lou was a big driver of the growth in addition to the subject becoming a little more widespread. I expected this trend to continue and am somewhat disappointed to hear AGUs deliberations. I personally felt it was the premier journal for space weather, even though it didn't have a lot of competition.

As far as access and publications go, when compared to say JGR-A, space weather is more of an operational environment where scientists in the field perhaps either do not have the time to publish or it's not a priority so this may have some impact on the access and publications.

Personally, I would prefer to publish in a space weather related journal as this is the field I work in. If Space Weather was to combine with Radio Science for example, I would most likely publish in the JSWSC as this seems to be gaining in strength. After all the good work that has been done with Space Weather, I feel it would be a pity to lose that focus...it could continue to grow, but if it goes, then we'll never know."

For my part, I felt the Space Weather magazine was valuable communicating ideas to people with limited science background in our previous Departments and more recently in the Bureau of Meteorology where the science background was far stronger, and which my organization (IPS) joined about six years ago (turning me into a full-time administrator as it did).

The pictures and accessible text worked well in amplifying our role. Unfortunately, this type of value is rather intangible. However, I imagine it was similarly successful in other organizations. I'd be sorry to see the magazine disappear, although I think it could satisfy the type of role I've just mentioned if it appeared annually, not that I'm arguing for that type of change.

Incidentally, I'd be very happy with an electronic version, but I gather that paper works far better among the audience I have cited.

The scientific papers, making up the journal aspect of Space Weather, are a valuable resource. It would be good to see more reviews appear among the papers, which might lift the citation rating - but I'm sure everybody has already suggested that and also pointed out why it doesn't happen. I assume the Journal part is not threatened as an entity but you are looking for suggestions to lift its visibility. I think Richard makes a sound case there; the potential authors may not be function the same as authors and readers of other AGU journals. Personally, I always felt the journal papers were a little over-shadowed by the magazine. I'm uncertain exactly why I felt that but I often felt that the two resources should be treated as two distinct but linked publications: Space Weather A and Space Weather B, maybe, one (A) illuminating the other (B).

I hope this discussion is going to be iterative and I will look forward to a summary of ideas collected from your various discussions. I remember discussions in the eighties e.g. with Gary Heckman and others on how we might convince some publication to accept papers on what we used to call solar terrestrial predictions. I think we continued to produce the Proceedings of our meetings because no reliable home was identified. Space Weather more than fills the gap we felt then. Let's hope we can now secure its successful future.

Best wishes,
Phil Wilkinson

On 19 Oct 2013, at 6:12, Brooks Hanson <BHanson@agu.org> wrote:

Hi all:

Thanks for your help on the Space Weather Editorial Board. I'm the Director, Publications at AGU. I'm writing as Lou Lanzerotti has decided to step down as Editor-in-Chief of Space Weather at the end of the year. I greatly admire and appreciate the effort that Lou, and all of you, have put into Space Weather. The content of the journal is excellent, and what I hope we can build on in the future and in other areas of AGU as well. At the same time, Space Weather has some challenges: it is one of our least accessed journals online, and the cost, with the quarterly, is higher relative to those of any other journal and amounts to about \$70-100 per member that receives the quarterly. These costs are such that it makes it somewhat counterproductive to promote the content or add additional resources, since costs would increase further.

I'm hoping that you might have time to discuss Space Weather on a conference call, perhaps next Wednesday or Thursday, or the following week, and explore how we can best carry it forward. I'll provide some background including on developments we and Wiley are doing on the WWW site for context and possible ideas.

In the hopes that you are interested, please let me know when you are available by clicking on the suggested times here: <http://whenisgood.net/mgkr7a4>. I'll try and pick a time when most can join in, or consider separate calls if necessary.

Best regards,
Brooks Hanson

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