



GeoScienceWorld

ANNUAL REPORT

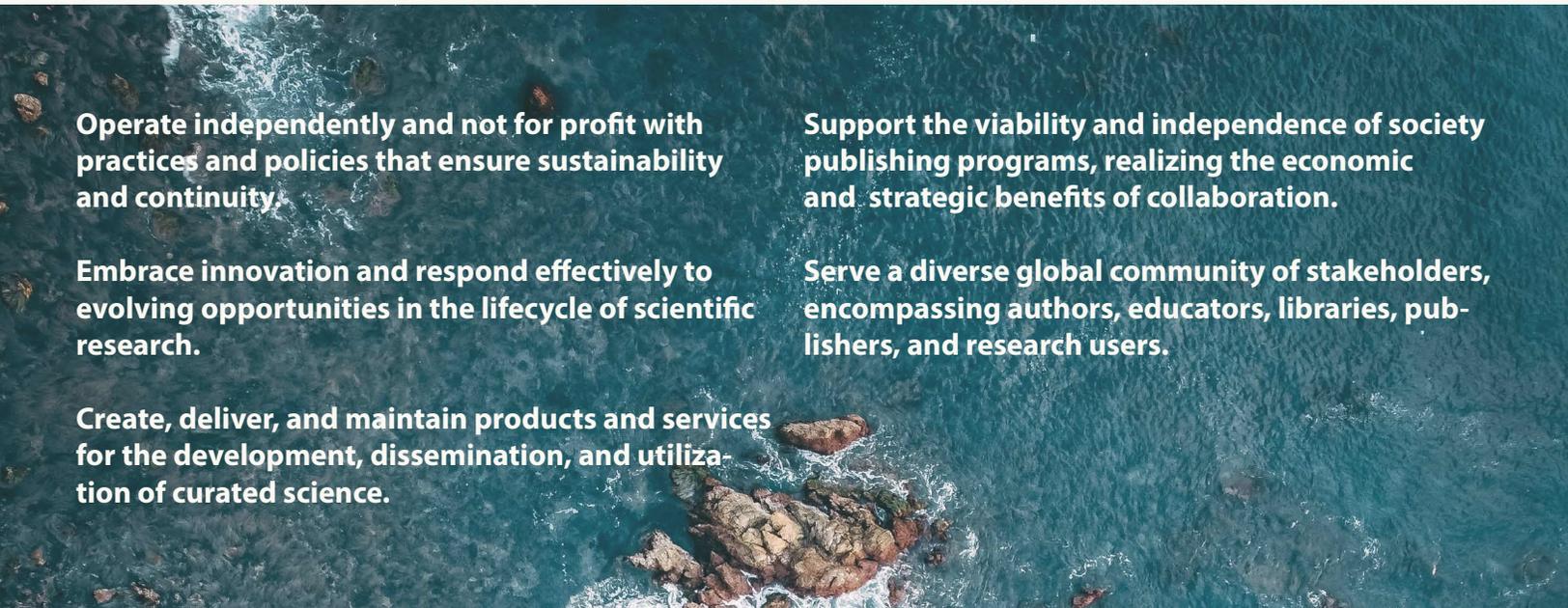
Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Reinvesting in Science • Sustaining Nonprofit Research Publishing

OUR MISSION

GeoScienceWorld (GSW) is a unique not-for profit society collaborative that brings together the highest quality community-driven research in the geosciences from trusted experts in the field. What began with the creation of a world-class digital platform for journals has evolved over the past 16 years to include eBooks, new content types, society services such as membership, technology, and administrative support, and is newly helping member societies develop and launch an Open Access Community Journal.

GSW aims to create impactful solutions to address emerging needs in the scientific community. With a focus on growth and sustainability as vehicles for giving our partners and users the greatest opportunities for advancement of their scientific missions, we manage the business and its relationships with a consistent awareness of the nonprofit values that distinguish us from others in the field.



Operate independently and not for profit with practices and policies that ensure sustainability and continuity.

Embrace innovation and respond effectively to evolving opportunities in the lifecycle of scientific research.

Create, deliver, and maintain products and services for the development, dissemination, and utilization of curated science.

Support the viability and independence of society publishing programs, realizing the economic and strategic benefits of collaboration.

Serve a diverse global community of stakeholders, encompassing authors, educators, libraries, publishers, and research users.

LOOKING FORWARD – INVESTING IN GROWTH

As a comprehensive and respected nonprofit resource for research and communications in the earth sciences, GSW consistently pursues innovative and astute methods for sharing knowledge among our expanding global audience, and for conveying uniform and more competitive advantages to independent societies. We are responding proactively to changes in the digital scholarly publishing environment and institutional library market while being mindful of our commitment to sustainable society publishing. We will continue to identify novel and insightful ways to ensure organizational resilience as well as growth opportunities for our stakeholders, and seek innovative methods for sharing knowledge among our expanding global audience.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$8.4M total revenue

\$43.6M in royalties to membership societies since inception

23% increase in content since 2018

97% renewal rate

22% increase in users

9 million pageviews, a 12% increase

1,328 journal and eBook customers in 45 countries

OPEN ACCESS (OA) COMMUNITY JOURNAL

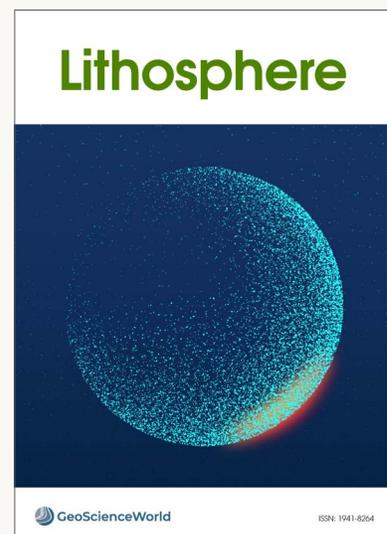
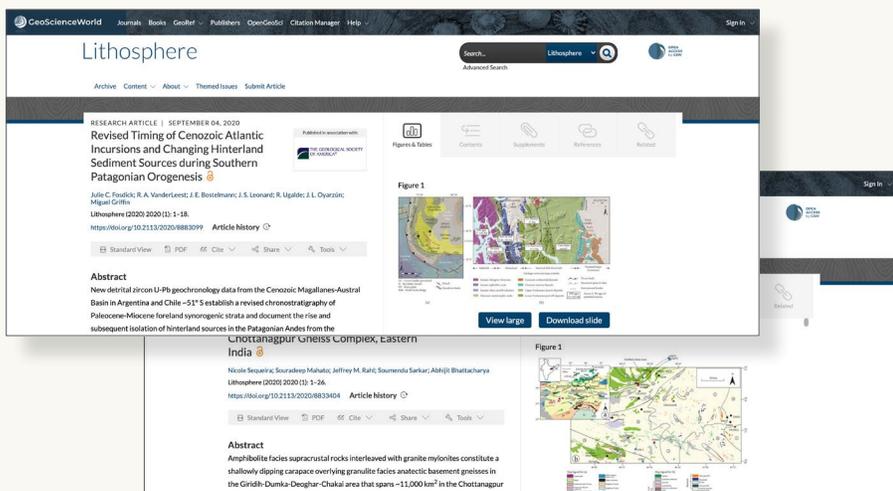
As a further extension of our mission, GSW is leading the way in OA publishing with solutions oriented to collaboration. In response to changing business models and funder mandates, GSW has invested in the acquisition and re-launch of *Lithosphere*, previously published by The Geological Society of America (GSA), as a multi-society Gold OA journal. As of January 2020, *Lithosphere* is being published by GeoScienceWorld in alliance with a number of leading nonprofit societies including: American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG); The Geological Society of America (GSA); Geological Society of London (GSL); Mineralogical Society of America (MSA); SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology; Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG); Society of Economic Geologists (SEG).

Now including coverage of research in all areas of earth, planetary, and environmental sciences, *Lithosphere* is the first broad-scope, fully-OA journal in the geosciences that combines both a direct submission and transfer models. Through *Lithosphere*, GSW can again help provide a cooperative solution to:

Provide researchers with a trusted place to publish their scientifically rigorous and valid results in an environment that encourages cooperation and accelerates discovery.

Open the doors to publish a broader scope of relevant multi-disciplinary research through both direct submission and transfers from the society journals.

Help societies of all sizes participate in Gold Open Access publishing and comply with funder mandates, with significantly reduced risk and investment to each of them individually.



“GeoScienceWorld provides small research institutions like mine with cost-effective access to a world-class library of geoscience literature — much more than we could ever afford to subscribe to otherwise. Their journal list is a “Who’s Who” of scholarly society publishing in our field and is actively growing. GSW has a strong track record of innovation and responsiveness to user input. Features like their geographic search interface, indexing of figures and tables, and use of mobile vouchers provide new modes of discovery. And the quality and reliability of the GeoRef bibliographic database underpins it all. I can’t imagine a serious research program in the earth or environmental sciences being without GSW.”

Shaun Hardy, Librarian Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington

JOURNALS COLLECTIONS

GSW's journals collection provides an always-improving value proposition for our community of authors, researchers and institutions, with access to 48 top-tier journals from 30 global publishing societies. This amounts to 195,000+ articles and abstracts including the following new content:

Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum

Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists
Geology archive (1965-1999)

Russian Geology and Geophysics

Novosibirsk State University
All content (2002-current)

Earthquake Spectra

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
All content (1984-current)

SEG Discovery

Society of Economic Geologists
All content (1990-current) expected to go live Q4, 2020

All of this is integrated with over 4 million resources in the American Geosciences Institute's GeoRef database.

The overwhelming majority (88%) of the journals in our collection are ranked in The Web of Science Group™ Journal Citation Report. The average impact factor of our ranked journals (2019) is 2.22, a 6.3% increase over the past five years.

eBOOK COLLECTIONS

The GSW eBook Collections* provide integrated, high value, full-text content with the convenience of downloadable chapters from 13 trusted publishers. eBooks are cross-searchable and interlinked with the GSW Journals Collections and GeoRef database on the new platform. Launched in mid-2014, today, the program now includes 2,200+ titles and is updated annually.

**Made possible through the generosity of our program sponsors: ExxonMobil, American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation, Geological Society of London, Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation, SEPM The Society for Sedimentary Geology.*

SOCIETY SERVICES PROGRAM

Again, building on our core mission to provide scalable, cost-effective solutions for societies, GSW launched a Society Services program in 2017. Shared infrastructure and strong operations focus have helped participating societies take advantage of technological and other shared services at reduced cost and with increased efficiency. In content hosting and dissemination, we have increased site traffic and discovery by delivering traffic to a sizable, globally recognized, and domain-focused 'version of record' site. Participants include: American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Mineralogical Association of Canada, The Geological Society of America, Seismological Society of America, SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology, and the Society of Economic Geologists.

"With the conglomerate of many publishers firmly behind them, GeoScienceWorld can negotiate with consortia and vendors that the Geological Society of America would not have been able to reach. Working at this scale has allowed us to save on expenses, push the technology of our publications, and collaborate with other geoscience publishers to create a unique product that serves the authors, researchers, and librarians of this field."

Vicki McConnell, Executive Director,
Geological Society of America

PLATFORM ENHANCEMENTS

The GSW platform provides users with a fully integrated, comprehensive and consolidated discovery, reading and research experience across all GSW products and services, including journals, eBooks and GeoRef. Our commitment to ongoing platform enhancements access initiatives, including Google CASA, helped contribute to significant usage increases in 2020 despite major disruptions to on campus access due to COVID-19. New features include:

Cloud migration for improved performance, load times, and stability

New Shibboleth Federations supported: Australia - AAF; China - CARSI; and USA - InCommon

ORCID display enhancement

CLOCKSS and LOCKSS supported to archive content

DOI deposit process improvement

Discovery service updates for ProQuest, EBSCO, OCLC

***Lithosphere* support for transfer articles from GSW publisher community**

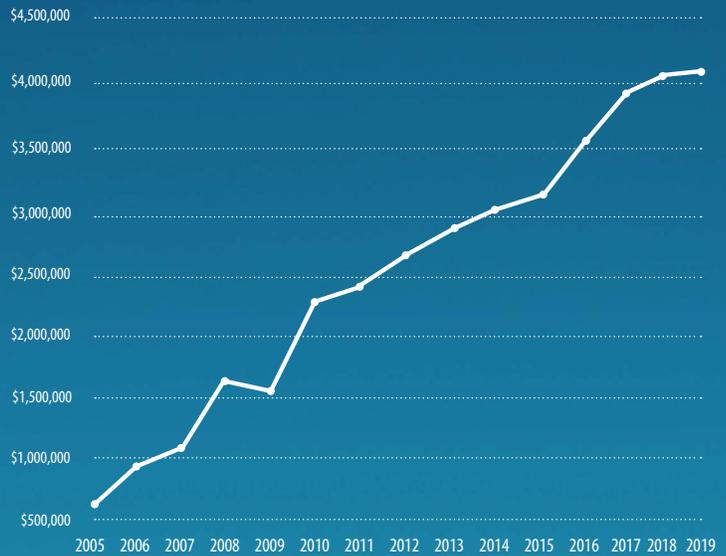
GeoRef Term Page Redesign

Contributor Roles and corresponding author updates for eBooks

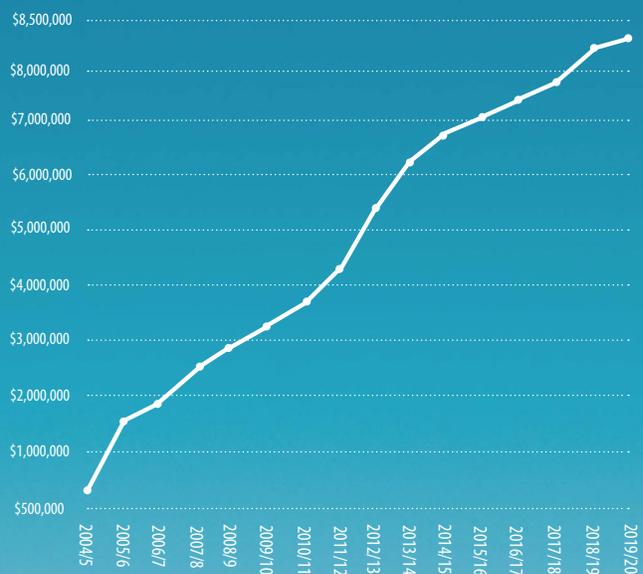
Article date and article history display enhancements

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

GeoScienceWorld works with publishing societies to support the creation and dissemination of scholarly Earth science research, always striving to maximize the value and utility of our platform for a global community of researchers and libraries. By returning a high proportion of our income to our content partners, we help protect the viability and independence of society publishing programs while constantly exploring and incorporating valuable economic, technological, and strategic benefits of collaboration. To date GSW has returned more than \$43 million (journal + eBook royalties) to societies to advance their publishing, research, and educational programs. GSW continues to deliver excellent financial results. Revenue this year is more than \$8.36 million – a compound annual growth rate of 9% since 2012. The 2019 total royalty pool for journals publishers exceeded \$3.7 million. And this fiscal year, the eBook royalty pool was \$413,000 with a total pool of \$2.4 million since the start of the program.



GROWTH OF ROYALTY AND RETAINER



INCOME BY FISCAL YEAR

“Joining GeoScienceWorld (GSW) marked a step change in electronic publishing for the Society of Economic Geologists. Made up of a host of non-profit publishers, GSW has effectively integrated the varied earth science content and rendered it discoverable in a way that makes the resource greater than the sum of its parts. Rather than providing returns to company shareholders, proceeds of this highly successful joint venture are returned to mission-driven membership societies.”

Brian G. Hoal, Executive Director, Society of Economic Geologists

STRATEGIC PLANNING

GeoScienceWorld is currently drafting its 2020-23 Strategic Plan, which will be approved by the Board of Directors in Q4 2020. The planning process is driven by our core values to:

OPTIMIZE	Attain and maximize results and deliver on our promises - financial, technical, and service level.
SERVE	Deliver value to customers and stakeholders and prioritize effective communication.
DEVELOP	Actively pursue growth opportunities.
CULTIVATE	Actively pursue partnership, collaboration, positive culture and effective innovation.
CREATE	Encourage individuality and a problem-solving ethos to attract and retain top talent.

The plan focuses on organizational resilience and adaptation to emerging opportunities and challenges. We continue to be motivated by providing innovative, collaborative, and sustainable service solutions for science, societies, and the global research community. GSW seeks to be agile and forward thinking in meeting the complex needs of our industry. The priorities of the plan include:

BUSINESS

Growing effective programs and adding products and/or services for an expanding audience.

Investing strategically to weather economic and industry downturns.

Increasing brand awareness and impact by ensuring that services and products are needed and meet emerging market demands.

IMPACT

Exploring opportunities to support open science.

Expanding our content and scope to adjacent sciences.

Accelerating participation in data techniques for knowledge extraction and discovery.

Facilitating strategic collaboration as a publishing collective.

CULTURE

Ensuring effectiveness in communication and execution as a globally distributed team.

Cultivating an environment and practices that are safe and inclusive, in line with our Core Values, in order to attract and retain top talent.



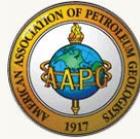
THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY

GeoScienceWorld is grateful to the people and organizations on the following pages for helping to make our vision possible.

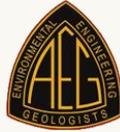
PARTICIPATING PUBLISHERS



AASP - The Palynological Society



American Association of Petroleum Geologists



Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists



Cambridge University Press



Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy & Petroleum



Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists



Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research



Earthquake Engineering Research Institute



Environmental & Engineering Geophysical Society



European Association of Geochemistry



Geological Society of America



The Geological Society of London



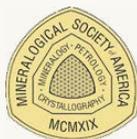
Geological Society of South Africa



Micropaleontology Project



Mineralogical Association of Canada



Mineralogical Society of America



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland



Novosibirsk State University



NRC Research Press



Paleontological Society



Seismological Society of America



SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology



Società Geologica Italiana



Society of Economic Geologists



Society of Exploration Geophysicists



Société Géologique de France



Soil Science Society of America



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
University of Wyoming

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More than 1,226 academic, government, corporate, and other institutions in 45 countries subscribe to GeoScience-World's eJournals platform. A sample of current subscribers includes:

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Hamilton College
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Keele University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
National Autonomous University of Mexico
Nanyang Technological University
Nazarbayev University
Northwestern University
Olivet Nazarene University
Temple University
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CSIRO
California Geological Survey
Carnegie Institution for Science
Daqing Oilfield
Geological and Mining Service Bureau Burkina Faso
Geological Survey of Norway
Indian Institute of Geomagnetism
Natural Resources Canada
National Geophysical Research Institute
Petrobras
Shell International Exploration & Production
The Technical Library
US Army Corp of Engineers

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Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries
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The American Association of Petroleum Geologists

The American Geosciences Institute

The Geological Society of America

The Geological Society of London

The Mineralogical Society of America

SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology

The Society of Exploration Geophysicists



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