

BRITISH HYDROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Policy regarding publications arising from BHS technical meetings

PREAMBLE

Since the Society's establishment, three principal types of publications have been issued to members and others:

- Occasional Papers (OPs)
- Biennial Symposium Proceedings (BSPs)) (SPs)
- International Symposium Proceedings (ISPs))

- plus of course *Circulation* and the BHS website are outlets for publications of some types, notably meeting reports and speakers' presentations from meetings.

To this list is now added our own journal *Hydrology Research*, co-sponsored with NHF. 'Buying in' to *HR* was the result of considerable discussion and enthusiasm at Main Committee and elsewhere, informed by consultation with members. The situation now arises where some thought needs to be given to how each type of outlet might best be utilised for various of the society's and its members activities and interests.

An *ad hoc* approach could be advocated, but there are good reasons for giving some thought to policy/guidance at this juncture, notably:

- To help inform Main and Regional Committee members and others involved in planning BHS meetings
- To help prospective authors understand how different possible outlets might best suit their respective aspirations, needs and wishes
- To help maximize the diffusion of knowledge from and among members (in keeping with the Society's aims as set out in its Statutes "...to promote interest and scholarship in both the scientific and applied aspects of hydrology...")
- To help maintain and enhance the Society's standing nationally and internationally.

Here are a number of issues to consider when we contemplate publication of some hydrological outputs:

Speed: how quickly does the output need to be published?

Standard: *HR*, as an international peer-reviewed journal, must be expected to operate at the highest level compared to other BHS outlets. While this is not intended to be prejudicial to papers addressing applied topics, the question of standard will often have implications for the amount of work needed to ensure publication of a paper

Status: readers (and many employers) will tend to attach highest status to journal papers

Length: OP or SP papers will tend to be limited in length compared with *HR* papers.

Individual paper(s) or a collection: There may be capacity issues; it may or may not be important for a group of papers to be published together as a coherent set.

There are some constraints to note as well:

- *HR* does not have capacity to publish any more than perhaps one BHS special issue every other year.
- Time to review, edit and publish groups of papers in whatever form.

POLICY

The following policy is offered to help us on the road to making best use of our various publications outlets in the interests of the Society and its members:

Encouragement should always be given to members who wish to explore possibilities of having their hydrological work published.

Office bearers and committee members should always be mindful of the help they can give either personally or indirectly to prospective authors, especially younger hydrologists.

Articles are always welcome for publication in **Circulation**, at the discretion of its Editor, who may take advice from Main Committee members as appropriate.

Occasional Papers remain available as a form of publication from BHS meetings or other activities. However, a collapse in demand has occurred since 2003, and it now seems that authors' needs are now better met by the other outlets in this list.

Symposium Proceedings should normally be published in time for the arrival of delegates at Biennial or International Symposia. The form of publication may be on digital media (e.g. USB drive, CD) and accompanied by only abstracts in hard copy. A precedent has been set that these media should replace hard copy proceedings, but this is a matter on which Main Committee might continue to receive feedback from delegates and periodically reconsider if appropriate.

HR Special Issues associated with BHS conferences, meetings and possibly other events or initiatives should be planned with the Editor *HR* (BHS) as far in advance as possible, normally beginning at least 18 months in advance of the meeting to be held. International and Biennial Symposia should normally each be expected to yield an *HR* Special Issue since such meetings stand at the pinnacle of the Society's activities in terms both of the quality and volume of work presented. A Special Issue will not be able to accommodate a large fraction of all the papers presented at such a meeting, but Symposium organizers should be encouraged from the outset to identify themes in which internationally significant work might be expected/sought, and should flag to prospective delegates from the outset the opportunity to write up work quickly after the Symposium for a special

issue. Plans can be developed with delegates as papers are written up and reviewed for the SP, which will help scheduling with the journal, ultimately leading to timely publication and dissemination of significant work, which will benefit authors and BHS alike. Special Issues may also be planned exceptionally in the initial scoping for National Meetings, and can be considered on their merits and in the context of available journal capacity and the aspirations and realistic time availability of authors. Again, early planning and detailed discussion with Editor *HR* (BHS), is key. Particular care will be needed when a symposium is to give rise to a symposium proceedings and then a *HR* journal special issue – authors will need to be guided on how to use their material to produce two distinct papers which each stand on their own merits without one duplicating the other to any significant extent. Guidance will need to focus on international contextualisation, depth of analysis, length, the need for a scholarly approach, and the expectations of the peer-review process.

Special issues of other journals By default, as the Society’s house journal, *HR* should be the first port of call for special collections of papers. SIs of other journals may exceptionally be warranted, e.g. because of a specialist focus or joint planning of a meeting. Where such proposals are being considered, they should be brought to Main Committee and Editor *HR* (BHS) at the first opportunity.

In summary, relations between meetings and publications may be represented as follows:

Source	Will normally yield	and may sometimes yield
International Symposium	Symposium Proceedings (all oral papers, perhaps poster abstracts) <u>and</u> a Special Issue of <i>HR</i> comprising extended/enhanced versions of selected SP papers	
Biennial (National) Symposium	Symposium Proceedings	Special Issue of <i>HR</i>
National Meeting	Meeting report in <i>Circulation</i>	Occasional Paper (though these have fallen from favour in recent years) or, exceptionally, a Special Issue of <i>HR</i>
Regional Meeting	Meeting report in <i>Circulation</i>	A contributed paper for <i>HR</i>
Independently contributed material	Brief, informative/perhaps provocative article for <i>Circulation</i> or extended, scholarly/research focused paper for <i>HR</i> on theoretical or applied hydrology	

Some points of differentiation between output types can be summarised as follows:

	Length	Review	Speed of publication
<i>Circulation</i> article	A few hundred up to 2000 words	Circulation Editor, with BHS MC advice if needed	Next issue (quarterly)
Symposium Proceedings paper	3000 words or equivalent	Via Symposium Organising Committee	At symposium
<i>HR</i> paper	6000 words or equivalent	Via Editor – high standard of scholarship	Publication normally within 18 months of submission

Andrew Black
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