

Executive editor

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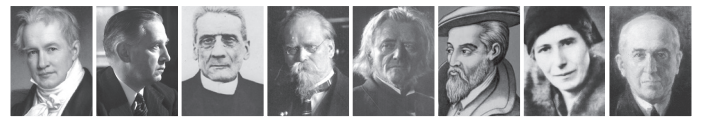
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Aims and scope



Science is very much a logical progression through time. Advances are frequently built upon and underpinned by ideas and understandings developed in the past, sometimes under circumstances which may no longer hold the same degree of validity. Each scientist works within a conceptual framework and can benefit and perhaps make advances by understanding the historical basis of that framework. Moreover, research in geosciences is often based on long-term observations (and collecting of data). It is therefore necessary to learn about the origin of these data and the way they have been passed on to us, as well as about the authors, their instruments, institutions, and field studies. It is also important to understand development of the ideas, the research process, and the institutions in which former scientists in the field worked, in order to understand the scientific development of the subject area as well as its importance in a societal context.

These reflections led to the desire to establish a special journal for contributions of historical questions and aspects of geosciences which should cover all related fields from the Earth core over the lithosphere, the ocean, the cryosphere into the atmosphere and near-Earth space (including geology, geodesy, hydrology, marine science, meteorology, and seismology). History of astronomy is not a topic of the journal.

The journal History of Geo- and Space Sciences (HGSS) is a platform for original research articles, review papers, and short notes, as well as book reviews and conference reports. The journal's remit is the publishing of original historical research, including new interpretations of historical material, facts, and established knowledge. The journal should also improve and accelerate communication between scientists working in and interested in historical aspects of the above fields.

The journal's scope is to document historical facts and knowledge and to improve awareness of the history of geoscience. The knowledge of the development of geosciences and their experimental methods and theories in the past can improve our current un-

derstanding and may stimulate current research. It is encouraging for young scientists to read biographical material of historical figures in their research area. It is important as well to learn that history of science is an integrated part of the ongoing research in their research area. Another important aim of the journal is the association of historical retrospective and current research.

All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed by two referees.

The journal subject areas are defined by the following index terms below. These terms represent the keywords to be chosen for assignment of submitted manuscripts to individual editors:

- history of research and historical aspects
 - Earth interior and dynamics
 - applied geophysics (seismology, gravimetry, geodesy, etc.)
 - chemistry of the Earth
 - geomagnetism (including palaeomagnetism)
 - marine sciences
 - geology
 - hydrology and ecology
 - petrology, mineralogy, mining
 - external geophysics (atmosphere, ionosphere, magnetosphere, auroa)
 - solar-terrestrial physics
 - near-Earth space exploration, space technology, instrumentation
- history of geophysical institutes and institutions
- history of multi-disciplinary geophysical studies
- people in geosciences
- book reviews

