



**WRITING PAPERS FOR
IAHR JOURNAL OF HYDRAULIC RESEARCH
AND FOR OTHER JOURNALS**

**Vladimir Nikora, JHR Editor
University of Aberdeen, Scotland**

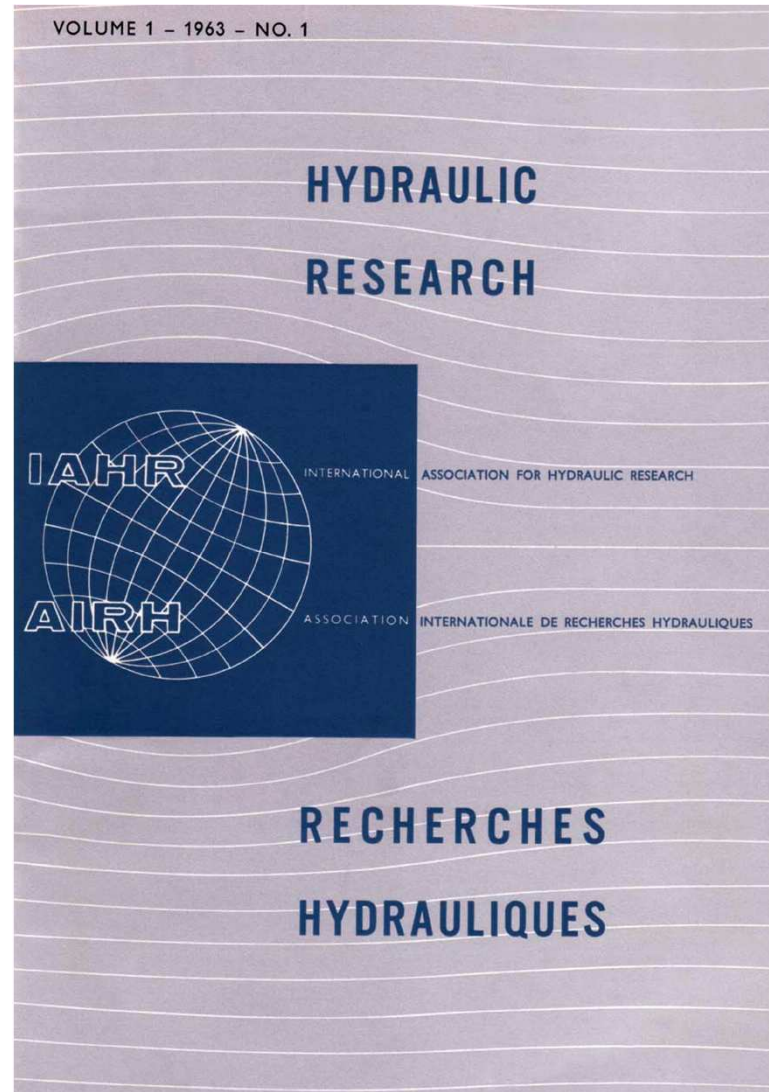
Talk Outline

- Journal of Hydraulic Research (JHR)
- Preparing and submitting a paper
- What is happening with a manuscript after submission
- How to get a good score by the reviewers
- Editor's decision and revisions
- Conclusions

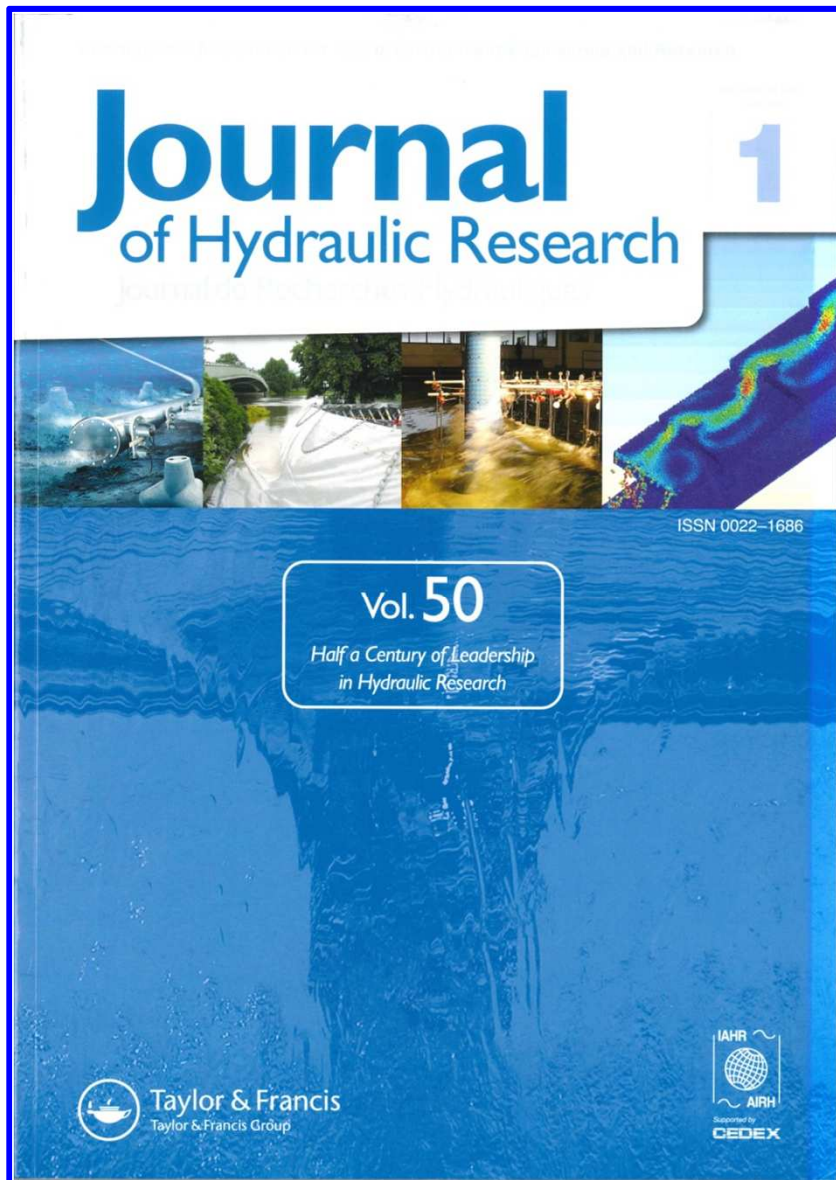
Journal of Hydraulic Research (JHR)

- One of the leading Journals in the field of Hydraulic Research and Engineering
- The flagship Journal of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)
- A peer reviewed journal, with a measured Impact Factor, included in most research data-bases
- Published bi-monthly since 1963 – one of the oldest fluids journals

How it was...



And how it is now



It publishes research papers in theoretical, experimental and computational hydraulics and fluid mechanics, particularly relating **to rivers, lakes, estuaries, coasts, constructed waterways, and other types of internal flows**. To reflect current tendencies in water research, outcomes of interdisciplinary hydro-environment studies with a strong fluid mechanical component are especially invited. **Although the preference is given to the fundamental issues, the papers focusing on important unconventional or emerging applications of broad interest are also welcome.**

JHR Website

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Journal of Hydraulic Research



Published on behalf of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research

ISSN
0022-1686 (Print), 1814-2079 (Online)

Publication Frequency
6 issues per year

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Subject Classifications

AG Free Supplementary material; Coastal Management; Economics, Finance, Business & Industry; Energy Industries & Utilities; Engineering & Technology; Environmental Engineering; Environmental Impact Assessment; Environmental Management; Environmental Studies & Management; Fluid Mechanics; Ground Water; Hydraulic Engineering; Industry & Industrial Studies; Mechanical Engineering; Mechanics of Solids; Resource Management - Environmental Studies; River Management; Storm Water; Structures & Structural Stability; Surface Water; Water Engineering; Water Industries; Water Science

Journal news

Half a Century of Leadership in Hydraulic Research

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Related Articles

Most read

Most cited

- Scale effects in physical hydraulic engineering models**
Journal of Hydraulic Research
- New hydropower converters for very low-head differences**
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Journal of Hydraulic Research
- Joseph Boussinesq and his theory of water flow in open channels**
Journal of Hydraulic Research
- Effect of intake head wall**

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JHR topics

- Laminar flows; Flow instabilities; Vortex dynamics and rotating fluids; Turbulent flows (both wall-bounded and boundary-free shear flows); Mixing and transport processes; Secondary currents; Hydrodynamic waves; Multiphase and stratified flows; Drag and hydraulic resistance
- Flows in open channels and pipes; Shallow flows; Flows through porous media; Oscillatory flows; Flows at air-water interface and water-sediment interface
- Sediment dynamics (e.g., erosion, transport, re-suspension, turbulence-sediment interactions, deposition, flocculation, bedform dynamics); Morphodynamics; Benthic boundary layers and near-bed processes
- Hydrodynamics of flow-biota interactions; Eco-hydraulics; Re-naturalisation of aquatic environments
- Hydraulic Structures; Flow-structure interactions; Industrial flows
- Hydraulics aspects of renewable energy systems
- Computational methods in fluid dynamics and hydro-environment research
- Experimental facilities, methods and instrumentation

JHR strengths

- Good balance among main topics
- Truly international Journal: authors and readers represent all continents
- Normally excellent turnaround time
- Back issues available online since volume 1
- Citation Indexes on the rise
- Publishes a range of paper types:
 - *State-of-the-art papers*
 - *Research Papers*
 - *Technical Notes*
 - *Educational and Forum articles*
 - *Case studies*
 - *Discussions*

Recent development at JHR:

Introduction of the Vision papers

Written by world-leading authorities in particular areas of hydraulics and fluid mechanics vision papers should identify most probable research directions for the next decade and should help in shaping the future of our profession and IAHR

A typical vision paper will cover:

- the place of a field within the 'hydraulic research' portfolio;
- the current state of the field;
- key challenges to be addressed in the near future;
- prediction of the field development for the next decade; and
- general thoughts on the future of the whole 'hydraulic research'
 - emergence of new areas
 - disappearance of some existing fields
 - their convergence with neighbouring fields
 - developments at the interfaces with other disciplines

Preparing and submitting a paper

How to choose the Journal

- Your paper should fit the aim and scope of a journal
- Journal quality in terms of scientific excellence, accuracy in print, appearance
- Diffusion among readers, and popularity among other Authors working on similar topics as yours
- Rigorous review process within a limited time frame
- Associate Editors recognized as known experts in particular fields of the Journal
- Availability of the Journal in major libraries and online

The ethics of authorship

- What constitutes authorship and criteria for authorship:
 - Ideas, exp design, codes, funding, external data, etc
- Authorship orders in scientific papers
 - Alphabetic, Contribution-based, First/Last author
- Plagiarism and self-plagiarism: be aware!!
- Acknowledgements (colleagues, funding sources, etc)
- Conference papers as a basis for journal papers: **MUST** be significantly deepened and extended for a journal

Preparing the manuscript

- Read the note to contributors and follow them
- First write the Methods, Results and Discussion sections and then Conclusions, Introduction, and Abstract
- Ensure references cited in text, appear in bibliography
- Expand any acronyms, remember it is an international audience
- Take care when choosing the title, remember academics may find it via a search engine or see it on a content alerting service
- Figures, tables and photographs: follow instructions
- Check spelling and grammar carefully
- Ask a colleague to read paper prior to submission
- If English is not your first language consider using an 'English polishing' service, **but try to improve your own English !!**

What's happening with a paper after submission

1. Paper submitted online
2. The Editor reviews the paper to check relevance, style, English, formatting, and then the paper either assigned to an AE to initiate review or rejected without formal review
3. The AE identifies 3 reviewers experienced in the subject area and sends the paper for review
4. In ~ 2-3 months the AE receives the reviews, integrates the reviewers' and his/her own opinions and provides a recommendation to the Editor
5. The Editor takes a decision: reject, return for major or minor revision, or accept as is.
6. If not accepted or rejected, the previous 2 steps are repeated typically involving the same reviewers

Role of reviewers

- Identify positive and negative sides of a manuscript including identification of factual errors in data analysis, interpretations, referencing, formatting
- Give suggestions about style and language, especially to non-native English speakers
- Write in a constructive way, offering suggestions and insights for the paper improvement
- Two positive reviews are required for the paper to be considered by JHR – reviewers are very influential

JHR Best Reviewer Award

- Award introduced in 2008 by IAHR Council
- 3 Reviewers are selected by the Editorial Board bi-annually
- Award = 1 year IAHR Membership fee
- Awardee names published in Hydrolink
- List of reviewers published in JHR annually

How to get a good score by the reviewers

- Make clear what **NEW** knowledge you add to the established body on your topic
- Be sure to review thoroughly the state of the art, paying attention to both most recent contributions and the old classics
- Follow carefully the *Authors' Guidelines*
- Try to serve as a reviewer and learn from the mistakes of others by doing peer reviews yourself

Editor's decision and Revisions

Your work may fall under one of the following decisions:

1. Accepted as is exceptional
2. Return for minor revision sometimes
3. Return for major revision often
4. Resubmit as a Technical Note sometimes
5. Declined sometimes

Revisions

~50 % of all submitted papers fall in category 3:

Return for a major revision

In this case you should:

- Revise and resubmit the paper accompanied by a *Cover letter*, in which **all** comments expressed by the Reviewers are discussed

Remember that normally the re-submission is sent again to the Reviewers who did the original review, to check how the Authors accounted for the reviewers comments

Try to win the Reviewers

- Authors should take sufficient time to adequately address Reviewers' comments, because they finally decide on your work
- Be always thankful for comments, even if you do not understand the reason
- If you disagree with a reviewer comment, state so in the cover letter, giving ample reason, but being always polite and convincing

And if the paper is declined?

- About 25% of the submitted papers are declined, after the first or the second review. Don't take it personal!
- Try to be cold minded and ask yourself “what was wrong?”
- Learning from mistakes is essential, you will do better next time

Conclusions

- Try to gain experience in writing journal papers by acting as a reviewer
- Start with submitting discussions, if you think you have something to comment on a published paper
- Always make **VERY CLEAR** what's **NEW** in your submission. That's the first thing reviewers and readers would like to see

Vladimir Nikora

Served as Associate Editor/Board Member:

- *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering* (ASCE)
- *Water Resources Research* (AGU)
- *Acta Geophysica* (Springer)

Research experience and professional interests:

- Hydraulics of aquatic systems (open-channel flows, BLs, turbulence, sediment dynamics)
- Flow-biota interactions and ecologically significant transport processes
- Laboratory and field measurements, instrumentation, and facilities
- Quantitative fluvial morphology (e.g., scaling and fractals in bed roughness, bedforms)

Published in:

J. Hydr. Eng. (ASCE); J. Fluid Mech.; Physics of Fluids; Envir. Fluid Mech.; Experiments in Fluids; Water Resour. Res. (AGU); Water Envir. Res.; Hydrology and Earth System Sciences; River Res. and Applications; J. Hydro-Science and Hydraulic Eng. (JSCE); J. Irrigation and Drainage Eng. (ASCE); J. Eng. Mechanics (ASCE); Math. Geology; Marine Geology; Acta Geophysica; IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters (GRSL); Physical Review Letters (APS, USA); J. Physics A: Math./Gen. (IoP, UK); Microgravity Science and Technology; Chaos, Solitons, and Fractals; Limnology and Oceanography; Ecological Modeling; J. Fish Biology; Freshwater Biology; Oikos; J. Phycology; Landscape Ecology; Chemosphere; Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science; J. Marine Res; Aquatic Sciences; Climatic Change; NZ J. Marine and Freshwater Res.,