

Editorial and Publications Committee 2007-2008 Annual Report

Committee members: S. Iacobellis (chair), D. Agnew, L. Cheng, G. D'Spain, P. Gerstoft, S. Gille, N. Hillgarth, M. Latz, M. McClune, P. Smith
Ex officio: P. Brueggeman, R. Rosenblatt
Student member: S. Smriga

Note: At the chair's request, Rob Monroe (SIO Explorations) and Lucy Gonzalez (SIO Web Operations) also attended meetings.

The committee held two meetings on November 15, 2007 and April 22, 2008 during the past academic year. Both meetings were attended by a majority of the listed committee members. The agenda at these meetings focused primarily on advising and assisting in the preparation of SIO Explorations which recently moved to a completely web-based operation with a monthly turnaround period. The committee was pleased to learn that the SIO Explorations team was quickly adapting to the new conditions and quicker turnaround. Rob and Lucy noted that Explorations material is being forwarded to SIO Web Operations in a timely manner. Web statistics indicate a very good response rate (significantly better than the industry standard) to email sent notifying the Explorations audience to new issues. Additionally, the size of the Explorations audience as measured by the number of emails sent, is increasing each month.

During both meetings new story ideas for upcoming Explorations were discussed. Some of these were based on current research at SIO while others ideas focused on historical aspects of the Institution and outreach efforts by SIO students, staff, and/or faculty. All committee members were reminded to be continually on the lookout for possible new Explorations features within their departments. An increased effort is also being made to generate web usage and visitor statistics for the SIO Explorations website. This data will help the Explorations staff to learn what interests visitors the most so that the effectiveness of current and new content can be evaluated. Lucy Gonzalez will update the committee on these statistics at the first meeting of the 2008-09 year.

Outside of the meetings, the committee continues to review copy of upcoming features in Explorations for both scientific content as well as general editing. Rob Monroe emails the committee drafts of the stories and generally requests our comments within 2-3 days. From all accounts, this set up seems to be working well and I believe the committee is making positive contributions to the drafts, both on a scientific and editorial basis.

At the April meeting, some time was spent discussing the editorial process associated with SIO Technical Reports and publications of the SIO Library. The SIO Reference Series was discontinued sometime ago. Reports that previous would have been directed to the reference series are now directed to the SIO Repository and published electronically (<http://repositories.cdlib.org/sio/>). As with the SIO Reference Series, the reports published in the SIO Repository are not peer-reviewed.

Within the SIO Repository there are several categories of reports and publications. Many of these are simply electronic versions of previously published reports. New reports will generally be electronically published under either SIO Technical Reports or SIO Library Collection. The SIO

Technical Reports are publications from SIO affiliated authors, many of which are material from SIO PhD dissertations. Publications with the SIO Library Collection are generally not from SIO affiliated authors and are often deemed as works of value and are published here electronically to make them more readily available to the at-large community.

There was some concern on the committee about the SIO name being “attached” to non-reviewed research, primarily with the SIO Library Collection. It was suggested that in the future any original research work under consideration for publication in the SIO Repository should be directed to the SIO Bulletin. Richard Rosenblatt confirmed that the SIO Bulletin can still publish material and uses a peer-reviewed framework. While a formal vote was not taken, I believe it was a general consensus of the committee members that this was a workable solution.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Iacobellis (chair)