

EDITORIAL

Name, Scope and Associations of the Journal

The volume of technical information now increases at a rate of 13 percent each year. At this rate of production the information data base doubles every 5.5 years. Under these circumstances it is becoming increasingly difficult for researchers in specialized fields to command the world literature. In cross-disciplinary fields such as coastal studies it is often difficult for authors to place their papers in journals that are closely reviewed by diversified audiences. The launching of this new journal is, in a way, a measure of the continuing development of coastal studies and the rapid deployment of newly developed tenets that serve practical applications.

In addition to the maritime nations with close links to the sea, there are industrialized societies, as in the United States, where three-quarters of the population lives in the coastal zone. Everything considered, nearly half of the world's population lives near the coast. An expanding population base with such close ties to the coastal zone is the basis for ever-increasing interest in littoral environments. As sites for urban growth, industrialization, commerce, recreation, national defense, and habitat preservation, the coastal zone requires closer study for greater understanding of natural processes and human interaction. More information and warning, for example, are needed against hazards associated with storm surges, tropical and extra-tropical cyclones, tsunamis, tidal "singularities," and pollution. Littoral environments are particularly fragile and thus need specialized knowledge for proper use and management.

The **Journal of Coastal Research** is an outgrowth and continuation of the quarterly previously known as *Litoralia*. One issue of *Litoralia* (Volume 1, Number 1) was published by the Van Nostrand Reinhold Company (New York) after which all rights and privileges were transferred to the Coastal Education and Research Foundation (Fort Lauderdale). With this issue we resume full operation of the journal under a new banner.

For the title of the former scientific quarterly, we

gratefully acknowledge the loan of the name "Litoralia" by the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA). As part of the transfer of rights to the Foundation we were pleased to return the name "Litoralia" to INQUA so that their information bulletin could continue under the original name and able guidance of Dr. Douglas R. Grant.

Our new name, **Journal of Coastal Research**, directly reflects the nature of our subject matter as we intend to deal with all aspects of coastal research on a broad front. Our call letters, **JCR**, may suggest to some, especially those in British universities, the acronym for "Junior Common Room" — a place of *camaraderie* and good cheer. A light touch isn't always appropriate but even thoughtful discussions, such as those that might appear in the pages of the journal, can often benefit from respectful candor. In spite of other possible connotations, however agreeable they might be, we will employ **JCR** in our logo and in informal reference to the journal.

The logo for the journal displays prominent abstractions of energy transfer between the hydrosphere, lithosphere, and atmosphere. Only along the coast do these three great natural spheres directly interact to form a so-called triple junction. The great variety of dynamic processes and feedback mechanisms that interact between and within the spheres affecting the coastal zone produce one of the most complicated natural environments on earth. The transitions, transformations, additions, and subtractions of energy and matter that go on in the vicinity of triple junctions are symbolized in the logo by waves in the aquatic environment and atmospheric precipitation about the land masses as represented in abstraction by the letters **JCR**.

Subjects dealing with the shorelines of the world are, for our purposes, considered in the broadest possible context. Although concepts of coastal environments differ, our landward limit is marked by the detectable influence of any process or feature that is normally attributed to a maritime regime. A

strong seabreeze could, for example, extend the coastal influence several hundred kilometers inland to well beyond the geographical extent of a coastal plain. Our seaward limit of interest generally falls short of the continental shelf break or 200 meters of water depth, which ever occurs first. The scope of the journal thus encompasses all subjects relevant to natural environments (freshwater or marine) and the management of their resources in the vicinity of coastlines of the world. Even though coastal environments reach to some indefinite distance inland and extend seaward beyond intertidal realms to the outer margins of the sublittoral (neritic) zone, the journal will broadly focus on shorelines.

The **Journal of Coastal Research** incorporates arrangement of departments in the following order: editorials; professional reports; technical communications; reports of meetings; letters to the editor; news and announcements; book reviews; books received; new citations in coastal topics; coastal calendar; and abstracts of recent literature.

We also wish to publish black and white "coastal photographs by (your name)" as items of interest. They will be interspersed on left pages throughout the journal, where appropriate. The submission of good quality B/W photos showing distinctive coastal features is invited. Each photo should be accompanied by an informative and expanded caption (up to 150 words or so) and attributed to an author. Color photographs of general interest will be published on a limited basis as will color plates for professional reports.

The **Journal of Coastal Research** is published in collaboration with several national and international research organizations including:

- International Union for Quaternary Research (**INQUA**)
 - Commission on Quaternary Shorelines
 - The Holocene Commission
 - The Neotectonics Commission
- International Geological

Correlation Program (**IGCP**)
[Supported by the International Union of Geological Sciences (**IUGS**) and **UNESCO**]

— Project No. 200 – Sea Level

Correlations and Applications

- International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Science (**ITC**)
- International Association of Meiobenthologists
- The Coastal Society (USA)

News of their activities will be published as a regular feature, particularly reports of meetings, symposia, field excursions, and calendars of events.

The journal encourages discussion and debate of contentious issues; new ideas, methods, or techniques; or different points of view in the form of letters to the editor and rejoinders. For those specialists wishing to express particular opinions or make extended statements of topical interest, we invite guest editorials.

As a service to our readers we introduce a first-page format that is based on models suggested for new international journals, encouraged by the European Association of Science Editors (**EASE**). The key feature here is the incorporation of the abstract within the size of a standard library card (75 x 125 mm). After photocopying the first page of a professional report and cutting out the abstract with its complete bibliographic data, it can then be mounted on a library card for filing and easy reference in future.

Our international board of editors, all of them respected researchers in the various specialized fields of coastal science, will help to ensure publication of a quality journal that is dedicated to all facets of littoral topics. By means of this journal we hope to provide an international forum for the exchange of ideas which will, in turn, foster development of integrated coastal research.

— Charles W. Finkl, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief

