

OLR MEETS GEO ABSTRACTS: THE RECENT MOVE OF EDITORIAL OPERATIONS

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ABSTRACT: Prior to the production of the 1993 volume of *Oceanographic Literature Review (OLR)*, editorial operations for the journal were moved from their established base at Woods Hole to the UK office of Elsevier/Geo Abstracts in Norwich.

The rationale for and accomplishment of the move are outlined and details are given of the associated paper and electronic products. In particular, the incorporation of OLR into Geobase is discussed, focusing on the areas of overlap most likely to be of relevance to the marine science community.

1. INTRODUCTION

The editorial functions of OLR have recently moved from their base at Woods Hole to the Norwich office of Geo Abstracts, part of the Elsevier Science publishing group.

As such, the purpose of this paper is to explain the reasoning behind the move, the logistics of the move itself, the resultant benefits to the user, and the position of OLR amongst the Geo Abstracts product range.

Discussions on each of these points are not mutually exclusive, and indeed, it is the range of products produced at Geo Abstracts that has made the office such a good home for OLR.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Product Range

Discussions regarding the move were initiated shortly after Pergamon was merged into Elsevier in 1992. It was apparent that with the range of journals produced at Geo Abstracts, and the development of a secondary publishing division within the company, that OLR may be better placed where the journal editors could gain from its association with related journals.

Geographical Abstracts: Physical Geography and **Geographical Abstracts: Human Geography** have been published by Geo Abstracts since 1966. Together these cover all areas of geography, including meteorology, remote sensing, GIS and global environments.

Over the years, the product range was extended to include **Geological Abstracts**, **Ecological Abstracts** and **International Development Abstracts**, each thoroughly covering the literature in their respective fields.

More recently, the titles **Fluid Abstracts: Civil Engineering** and **Fluid Abstracts: Process Engineering** have been added to the range. Topics covered include marine and coastal engineering and theoretical fluid dynamics.

Finally, editorial activities of **World Textiles Abstracts** were moved to the Norwich Office this year.

The other consideration was the opportunity to incorporate the OLR coverage into the electronic products produced by Geo Abstracts. This promised obvious benefits to the traditional OLR users, and the users of the established databases.

The databases are discussed in more detail in 5.

2.2 Our coverage of the literature

As an established information provider, a total of around 2500 journal titles were regularly received by Geo Abstracts prior to the OLR move.

When OLR did come on board, subscriptions to further marine titles were added, and as such, material cited in OLR has been selected for inclusion from a base of over 2500 regular journals, plus numerous irregular titles - the so called 'grey literature', conference proceedings and books. Geo Abstracts has built up a good relationship with its fellow publishers over the years, and most keep the office abreast of their activities, giving early notification of new publications.

Further material is sourced from the local University Library, or through the British Lending Library.

Geo Abstracts is therefore able to provide a good literature base for a literature review, and this is being built on all the time. The more journals that are published at Geo Abstracts, the better the coverage becomes.

This gives some insight into why OLR was moved, and also goes some way to indicating how OLR fits into its new home.

Having decided to move OLR, the next problem was how to go about it.

It was time to talk to Frank Shephard!

3. HANDING OVER OLR

Frank was editor-in-chief of OLR for many years, with the then coverage of OLR largely reflecting the ample literature base of the library of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Frank, and Mary Sears before him, had done a sterling job in developing OLR, and building up its loyal following.

Continuing in that tradition, Frank was very active in ensuring OLR's smooth transition to Geo Abstracts, and remains involved as Emeritus editor.

The Geo Abstracts offices were visited by Frank with Anne Vindenes Allen, the publishing editor responsible for the Pergamon marine science journals. A plan of action was discussed at some length, and it was agreed that the move should go ahead in time for Volume 40, 1993.

In advance of the move, Frank provided lists of journals reflecting the core coverage of OLR, together with a very lengthy list of the grey literature. The staff at Geo Abstracts secured subscriptions to all of the core journals and the majority of the grey literature, and further researched sources such as Ulrichs to increase the marine science base. Much correspondence across the miles ensued and coverage of the core literature continued unbroken through the transition.

The mechanisms thus in place, Geo Abstracts took over editorial and production activities of OLR and used the opportunity to take a fresh look at the title.

4 THE NEW LOOK OLR

In consultation with Frank Shephard and other Geo Abstracts editors, the structure and layout of OLR was majorly revised for the 1993 volume. The most noteworthy changes were those involving the organisation of material within the journal, a fuller contents page to facilitate access to the material, and a remodelled annual index. A subject, regional, organism and author index is now provided with issue twelve, along with a list of journals cited. The latter includes only a list of the journals actually cited that year. A full list of the journals scanned is available on request.

The organisation and structure was then further modified in time for the 1994 issues with the assistance of the newly appointed editorial board, two of whom are IAMSLIC members.

4.1 Organisation of Material

A glance at the contents page (see appendix A) shows deviation from the traditional oceanographic subject boundaries. These still represent the core OLR coverage, as indicated by the first five sections, but an environment section has been added to cover the topical pollution and management issues, and the previous general section has been divided into more manageable parts. This does not mean that the scope of OLR has been greatly changed, rather that the organisation and emphasis of the journal have been adjusted to follow present trends. Accordingly, OLR now has a section on remote sensing for example.

Users will also notice a change in the way material is organised within sections.

4.2 Abstract Quality

All abstracts are edited for clarity and length, and where necessary, abstracts are written by subject specialists. Keywords are added, and a new book index is published each year. The result is a

continuance of the quality product along with some adjustments which make the product more topical and easier to use.

4.3 Indexing

The annual **Subject Index** is compiled using primarily ASFA thesaurus terms. However, the thesaurus is not rigidly adhered to, allowing greater flexibility.

A simplified **Regional Index** appears in each issue, with the full hierarchical index appearing annually.

An annual **Organism Index** enables rapid searching for individual species, and the annual **Author Index** cites each of up to six authors for each paper.

4.4 Developments for 1995

From issue 42(3) OLR will include a new section, **Ocean Data News**, which will contain information regarding the availability of data from the major national and international programmes. The editors will provide details of data sets and data products available electronically, with notes on data format, data-set size, copyright, access, and cost.

The page budget for OLR has also been increased for 1995 to allow coverage of nearly 8000 citations a year. New developments and new sources of information are continually considered.

5. ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

As a result of OLR's move to Geo Abstracts, OLR is also now available electronically as part of the on-line database Geobase, its CD-ROM version, and the subset disc Earthdisc.

5.1 On-line Databases

Geobase on-line represents the coverage of the following paper products since 1980:

- Geographical Abstracts: Physical Geography
- Geographical Abstracts: Human Geography
- Geological Abstracts
- Ecological Abstracts
- International Development Abstracts

and the coverage of **Oceanographic Literature Review** since 1992. The possibility of loading the OLR backfile is being investigated.

The database is accessible via Dialog, Orbit, ESA and OCLC and is updated monthly.

Material of relevance to IAMSLIC libraries may also be found on **Fluidex** the on-line equivalent of the two Fluid Abstracts journals.

The Geobase and Fluidex coverage is also available on CD-ROM.

5.1 CD-ROMs

The full Geobase coverage from 1980-1989 is available on the Geobase Archive Disc, whilst the Geobase Current Disc provides Geobase coverage from 1990 to the present in quarterly updates.

The more tailored products **Earthdisc**, **Geography Disc** and **Ecodisc**, all subsets of the Geobase Current Disc, cover the material in their respective fields again from 1990 to the present in quarterly updates. The OLR data appear on Earthdisc, together with the data from Geographical Abstracts: Physical Geography and Geological Abstracts. Further tailored products are likely.

All are Silver Platter CD-ROMs and are available for use with SPIRS software in Windows, DOS or Apple Mac versions, providing full Boolean search capabilities.

5.1.1 Review of Geobase by CD-ROM Professional

Geobase on Silver Platter was reviewed for the September/October 1994 issue of CD-ROM Professional (pp 148-149). The discs were awarded the top rating for ease of use, ease of installation, product support and overall value.

In her roundup June Seel writes:

‘Geobase is an excellent resource. It is easy for a novice to use as well as sophisticated enough for the experienced searcher. The installation is easy and can be modified to meet the customer’s needs. Geobase fills a gap in CD-ROM coverage that academic institutions, professional, and corporations interested in geography, geology, ecology and/or oceanography will definitely want to fill’

If potential users wish to try the discs themselves, demonstration discs are available for 30-day free trial. See Appendix B for further information.

6. CONCLUSION

OLR has undergone several logistical, academic and cosmetic changes over the last two years, and is now available via a variety of media. The journal has retained its niche as a provider of core oceanographic information whilst subtle adjustments have kept the coverage topical and up to date.

The journal continues to be reviewed using in-house and external resources and the development of further related products is likely.

APPENDIX A:

OCEANOGRAPHIC LITERATURE REVIEW

CONTENTS

PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY

Apparatus and methods

Regional and general

Nearshore dynamics

Currents

Circulation

Water masses and fronts

Tides and sea level

Surface waves and oscillations

Internal waves and tides

Ice

Properties and processes

Fluid mechanics

MARINE METEOROLOGY

Apparatus and methods

Regional and general

Climate, climate change

Radiation

Air-sea interaction

Air masses, atmospheric motion

Clouds, fog, precipitation

Atmospheric chemistry

Particulates

Storms, disturbances, cyclones

CHEMICAL OCEANOGRAPHY

Apparatus and methods
Regional and general
Chemical properties
Metals and metalloids
Physical chemistry
Radioactivity
Dissolved gases
Organic compounds and nutrients
Particulates and colloids
Geochemistry, biogeochemistry

MARINE GEOLOGY and GEOPHYSICS

Apparatus and methods
Regional and general
Coasts, reefs and atolls
Sediments and sedimentary processes
Depositional environments
Geochronology, stratigraphy and palaeontology
Hydrothermal activity
Igneous and metamorphic geology
Earth's rotation, shape and structure
Gravity, electricity and magnetism
Earth's heat
Structural geology and tectonics
Economic geology

BIOLOGICAL OCEANOGRAPHY and MARINE ECOLOGY

Apparatus and methods
Regional and general
Planktonic ecosystems: general
Planktonic ecosystems: phytoplankton, seston, detritus
Planktonic ecosystems: zooplankton, micronekton
Nekton
Benthic and hydrothermal communities
Estuarine and marsh communities
Seagrass and mangrove communities
Reef communities
Microbiology
Marine mammals
Birds
Aquaculture and fisheries

POLLUTION and ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Apparatus and methods

Regional and general

Pollutant transport

Biological uptake

Effects of pollution

Conservation and environmental management

APPLIED OCEANOGRAPHY and ENGINEERING

Apparatus and methods

Remote sensing

General

Coasts, ports and harbours

Offshore engineering, resource exploitation

Waste management

POLICY and LAW

REGIONAL and SYNOPTIC STUDIES

MISCELLANEOUS

REGIONAL INDEX

APPENDIX B: SALES INFORMATION

For further information on any of our products, please contact myself or Miriam Dean at :

Elsevier/Geo Abstracts
Regency House
34 Duke St
Norwich
NR3 3AP
UK

or J. Kuhl at:

Elsevier Science Publishers
655 Avenue of the Americas
New York
NY 10010
USA

To obtain a Geobase CD-ROM for 30 day free trial, please contact :

Silver Platter Information Ltd.
Barley Mow Passage
London
W4 4BR
UK

or

Silver Platter Information Inc.
100 River Ridge Drive
Norwood
MA 02062-9742
USA

Please specify the discs you wish to try (maximum 2)