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Authors

Dawson, Michael N
Field, Richard
Hortal, Joaquin

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Advancing *Frontiers*, with a prospective

About this time last year, we ran a retrospective editorial charting the growth of *Frontiers of Biogeography*, this scientific magazine published by the International Biogeography Society (Dawson et al. 2011). We outlined its development since the coming-together of the *IBS Newsletter* team with the vision of the original *Frontiers of Biogeography* book—to provide a series of integrative and interdisciplinary volumes published and developed in association with the *International Biogeography Society (IBS; Lomolino and Heaney 2004; Hortal and Dawson 2009)*. The publication of this issue marks the next stage in development of the journal.

For the past year, we have been working with staff at eScholarship¹ to deliver a professional society journal that meets the highest standards in publishing and research. The result is a combination of the benefits of an established commercial journal and those of Open Access (remarkably including low or no cost to the author and zero cost for readers) brought to you by the editorial team you know well as your peers in the *IBS*. By joining with eScholarship, which has 10 years' experience in Open Access publishing and a commitment to advancing this model of disseminating science, we have made it easier for you to publish in this peer-reviewed journal. Meanwhile, the editorial team is freed to concentrate on advancing the journal and helping publish your recent advances in biogeography.

With this new format, *Frontiers of Biogeography* specifically aims to complement our growing core of *Opinions, Perspectives, and Reviews* with publications in two additional categories: *Research Letters*, which are concise manuscripts presenting original scientific research, and *Proceedings* of conferences, symposia, workshops and other scientific meetings². Further benefits to

you are publications rapidly disseminated within the society and to the broader community, with indexing in Google Scholar (we also are working on listing in the Directory of Open Access Journals³ and in proprietary databases), monthly updates with statistics on views and downloads of your articles, and uninhibited access to your work by researchers in any institution and country. Many of these benefits have always been available with *Frontiers of Biogeography*, but they are attained more easily with eScholarship.

Frontiers of Biogeography is now 11 issues, and not quite three years, old (the first issue was published in September 2009). During this period, we have maintained an average of over 35 pages per issue (over 40 in Volume 3) of increasingly diverse content, including opinions and perspectives, book reviews, thesis abstracts, news and comment on the current literature, and updates for the *IBS* membership. This has been accompanied by a small but steady increase in the number of citations to the journal (e.g. Fagin and Hoagland 2011, Gibbons et al. 2011, Dawson 2012, Smith and Lundholm 2012, Peterson and Lieberman 2012). Such presence in the mainstream literature continues to be pushed forward by our long-standing series of contributed opinion and perspective articles such as Ladle et al. (2011), Scheiner (2011), and Beckage et al. (2012); we expect this will increasingly become the case for *Research Letters* and *Proceedings* too. This growth would not have been possible without the support of *IBS* members in submitting articles; it is also the result of the work of a dedicated team of Associate Editors⁴, including senior and early-career scientists with a great enthusiasm for the diversity of biogeographic study. It is our privilege to work with them and for you in advancing *Frontiers* alongside the growth of the

1 <http://escholarship.org/>

2 <http://escholarship.org/uc/search?entity=fb;view=submissionguidelines> describes article types and provides guidance for authors

3 <http://www.doaj.org/>

4 <http://escholarship.org/uc/search?entity=fb;view=editorialboard>

discipline and its leading society, and we are excited to provide a new venue for *Frontiers* that reflects the long-standing values of science and is in the vanguard of publishing.

Michael N Dawson¹, Richard Field² and Joaquín Hortal³

¹Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Frontiers of Biogeography and IBS Vice-President for Public Affairs and Communications

²Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Frontiers of Biogeography and IBS Secretary

³Editor-in-Chief, Frontiers of Biogeography

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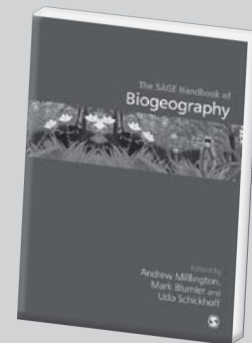
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