

NEW “FORUM” FOR AUTHORS

MALCOLM S. FIELD

This issue of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* inaugurates a new “Forum” section to provide a place for articles other than research manuscripts and book reviews. Full research articles and book reviews will continue to be published separately from items in the Forum. Typical articles likely to appear in the Forum will be:

- Letters to the editor
- Abstracts from recent M.S. theses and Ph.D. dissertations
- Discussions of papers and authors’ replies
- Brief research articles or communications
- Announcements of upcoming events

Articles published in the Forum will generally not undergo the usual review process by selected referees; rather, the Editors will provide the necessary reviews. In rare instances the Editor or Associate Editors may seek reviews from one or more referees as necessary. The Editor reserves the right to edit any accepted Forum manuscripts for editorial content, length, etc. without subsequent approval of the author(s). Editorial changes that potentially affect the technical quality of any manuscript will require approval by the author(s) prior to publication.

Letters to the Editor can be on any aspect related to the *Journal* or to caves and karst in general. They should cover topics pertinent to the *Journal* that are not appropriate for the *NSS News*. Letters to the Editor may include cited references, figures, and tables, but will be subject to editing or deletion at the discretion of the Editor and Production Editor for space reasons, lack of relevance, quality, etc.

Thesis and dissertation abstracts will not be subject to editing, but will appear as submitted. Publication of a thesis or dissertation abstract will in no way affect, either positively or negatively, the eventual publication of a full research manuscript of the previously published thesis or dissertation abstract should a full manuscript be submitted for publication.

Discussions of previously published papers, authors’ replies, and brief research communications will likely include cited references, figures, and tables to help emphasize salient points. These types of communication will be subject to review either by the Editors or by selected referees. The degree of review required for any particular manuscript to be published in the Forum will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Editors.

Announcements of important upcoming events, (e.g., the 17th National Cave and Karst Management Symposium) will be accepted only if they appear in the form of a brief communication of the upcoming events and not advertisements. However, announcements of events may be published in the Forum while an advertisement for the event may also be published elsewhere in the *Journal* (e.g., back cover). All announcements accepted for publication in the Forum will be condensed into a small grouping to minimize space and because most announcements will already have been distributed in other forms (e.g., advertisements, call for papers, etc.).

It is hoped that introducing the Forum in the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* will provide greater communication and discussion within the karst community.

National Speleological Society
2813 Cave Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35810-4431