

## An Update on *Tectonics*

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In February 1982, the first issue of *Tectonics* was published. In the editorial policy statement for the journal, founding editors John Dewey, Paul Tapponier, and Clark Burchfiel wrote, “The central theme of *Tectonics* is the mechanical and thermal evolution of the lithospheric crust and mantle and the way that this is reflected in cratons, basins and mountains from the broad regional scale to the fine scale.” The editors further stated, “We expect that papers on these and related topics would emanate from a wide variety of earth science disciplines ranging from physical modeling to geological field observation.” Finally, with the confidence from this incredible team of editors, they noted, “We are aiming for a very rapid review process, allowing a maximum of about 1 month between submission and notification to the author of acceptance or rejection.”

The journal has lived up to most of the goals established by the founding editors. As measured in many ways, 32 years later, *Tectonics* remains a great success. The journal has an impact factor of 3.487, and its ISI Journal Citation Reports Ranking in 2012 was 8/76 in the field of geochemistry and geophysics journals. Since the inception of the journal, many impressive developments have taken

place that allow us to better understand tectonic processes throughout the world.

Today, the overview of the journal reads as follows: “*Tectonics* presents original scientific contributions that describe and explain the evolution, structure, and deformation of Earth’s lithosphere. Contributions are welcome from any relevant area of research, including field, laboratory, petrologic, geochemical, geochronologic, geophysical, remote-sensing, and modeling studies. Multidisciplinary studies are particularly encouraged. *Tectonics* welcomes studies across the range of geologic time.” The focus of the journal has broadened to include tectonic processes affecting both the continental and oceanic lithospheres.

The editorial board consists of an editor in chief, a North American–based editor, and a European-based editor, reflecting AGU’s collaboration with the European Geosciences Union. The editorial duties of all three editors are split evenly. Over the past few months, the editorial board has considerably expanded its associate editor base to reflect the very substantial diversity, in topic, scale, and setting, of contributions submitted to the journal, and we thank the many associate editors who have recently joined the journal and those who have served the journal over the past several years.

Despite the many conveniences of the electronic age, we must admit that we have not

attained the very impressive goal of a 1-month turnaround time discussed by the founding editors. That said, we are striving to decrease the time to first decision as much as possible. At present, the average and median times to first decision for *Tectonics* papers are 71 and 67 days, respectively. A most critical step in any peer review is identifying appropriate reviewers, particularly in the context of the typically data-rich and multifaceted nature of *Tectonics* papers, in a timely manner. In 2013, *Tectonics* handled 183 submissions. Through June 2014, the number of papers submitted to the journal totaled 126. The growth in submissions reflects an increased interest in the publication of multidisciplinary studies and *Tectonics*’ growing international reputation.

The editors of *Tectonics* welcome contributions from the diverse geoscience community and would be happy to discuss potential contributions to the journal at any time. Make arrangements to meet with us in the Editor’s Lounge at the AGU Fall Meeting this December.

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