

Modernizing the distribution of JMSJ

15 December 2017

To members of the Meteorological Society of Japan

In the February 2017 issue of JMSJ, we announced¹ a review of the journal's distribution policy and conducted a survey of format preferences among members of the society's B and C membership categories. The Board of Directors has reviewed the survey responses, together with other relevant information, and has finalized decisions about the journal's distribution policy. In brief, for individual members, each full volume of the journal will be issued as a DVD to B and C members, but members may purchase print issues if they wish. For organization members, print issues will be distributed as before. Further details are below.

Individual members: Instead of printing issues, we will distribute a DVD of each volume of JMSJ. For example, the 2018 volume will be distributed on DVD in or around February 2019. Those B and C members who wish to receive only a DVD do not need to take any action.

We will continue to offer a print version for members who choose to receive it. If you wish to purchase the journal in print format, please contact the Meteorological Society of Japan. Six issues per year plus any special issues will be published and distributed per the standard schedule.

Additional print price (individual members of B and C categories): 500 yen / issue (plus consumption tax, if applicable; surface mail fee is included)

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Organization members: Distribution of print issues will continue as before. No further action by organization members is required.

Reference:

1. Announcement (21 February 2017)

In recent years, the academic journals landscape has been subject to considerable change, with academic journals coming under increasing competition and financial pressure. The Meteorological Society of Japan (MSJ) is taking various measures to increase the competitiveness of Journal of the Meteorological Society of Japan (JMSJ), and we believe that there is an urgent imperative to reduce the publication fee burden on authors. Currently, author fees are the main source of funding for our publications. A large proportion of our publications' current costs – and

of the total charges to authors – are for printing color. By contrast, academic journals that are online-only are able to keep their publication fees low – in part because they do not incur (color) print costs. In the interests of our authors, we are therefore reviewing whether print versions for our publications should be retained.

JMSJ is issued in two formats: print and online (hosted by J-STAGE). Print issues are distributed to B and C members of the MSJ, while the online version can be accessed free of charge by anyone, regardless of their membership status. As the online version of academic journals has become standard, the necessity and value of the print version is diminished.

Therefore, in the future, we propose to shift the publication of JMSJ to online-only. However, we may then offer a print version to members who want one on a full cost recovery basis. This will eliminate the burden of color page charges on authors and will allow MSJ to continue to produce high-quality publications, but at a lower price. For B and C members, instead of a print version, we will supply a DVD once a year at no additional charge.