

*Back to basics on scientific publishing*

The first scientific journals date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the French *Journal des sçavans* and the English *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* first began systematically publishing research results [1]. After more than three centuries, I would like us to reflect on the fundamental function for writing scientific papers and publishing. Scientists publish papers in specialized international journals essentially for two reasons: i) to test their results and ideas within the community, and ii) to allow the community to (re)use these results in order to progress in their own research:

- i. The review process by the peers is an important step in the testing process for authors, even if it is not always seen as such. It provides essential validation and feedback to the authors at a stage prior to publication of their work.
- ii. The editorial process is also key to ensure that the publication correctly and completely conveys the information to the community.

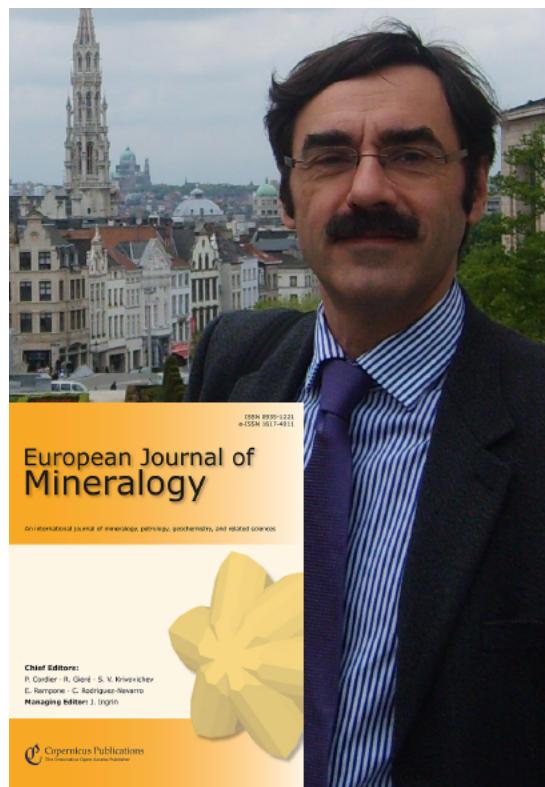
The continuous exchange of knowledge and feedback within the communities is fundamental for research advancements. Overall, research is a mix of a community and an individual adventure. A good equilibrium between these two dimensions is required to make new discoveries.

Some of us may feel that these two objectives are no longer the main motivation for publications. The search to gain visibility in order to attract more funding, enhance one's career and to become more influential are more and more present, risking to shifting significantly the equilibrium toward the individual dimension of research.

At the European Journal of Mineralogy (EJM), we remain loyal to the two main basic reasons of scientific publication. As editors, our decisions are taken without judging how influential a paper could become. If a manuscript is scientifically original and of high quality, we try to provide the most complete possible review to the authors. We encourage a publication culture that ensures that the data and ideas are understandably transferred to the scientific community. The team at our journal works hard in defending the fundamental function of scientific publications. Editors, publishers and authors should never forget the final objective of scientific publications and our role within the community.

J. Ingrin

Managing Editor of EJM



[1] D. A. Kronick, *History of Scientific and Technical Periodicals*, 2nd ed. Scarecrow, 1976