1. Summary of activities

As a journal we notionally have two overlapping sets of ‘customers’ – readers and authors. Authors provide the content whilst readers consume it. In a subscription funding model, readers pay for journal production, whilst in an open access (OA) model, authors pay. Somewhat uniquely in publishing, advertising plays a very limited part. And akin to commercial publishing, we have an overall journal editor (or Editor-in-Chief) and section editors (or Associate Editors).

But the oil that greases the wheels of motion? Well that is mostly unique to academic publishing and is the process of peer review. We take it for granted as authors, but in publishing it is unusual for two independent experts to review the veracity of a piece of work in order to determine whether it is worthy of publication. And even more unusually in publishing, everyone (except the publisher!) gives their time for free – editors, authors and reviewers (although editors will often be paid expenses). Or rather, academic publishing is a knowledge distribution and academic assessment system, partially funded by universities and research institutes.

But again, the oil that greases the wheel … readers benefit from the knowledge they acquire through reading, whilst authors benefit from a publication that can progress their career. But reviewers? There are two limiting factors for reviewers.

(1) It’s a thankless task! Reading a manuscript, assessing the academic merit and writing a report is a time-consuming process for which you receive no tangible benefit. Some journals provide a certificate acknowledging a review, but otherwise the intangible benefits remain extensive networking and an awareness of cutting edge research early in the publishing cycle.

(2) There is a finite pool of people that you can call upon – they must be knowledgeable enough in a specific research field, have no links to the work submitted and be willing to undertake the review. As an active Editor I know that this can be difficult at the best of times, and sometimes almost impossible due to unfortunate circumstances. We have had some manuscripts with over 15 refusals to review.

So reviewers are critical to the academic publishing system, an invaluable resource to be treated with respect and deference (and remember that this is two-way, so the reviewer should also treat the process with respect and deference). When we consider reviewers as a resource, the explosion in academic publishing has produced a system that requires an ever-increasing number from a pool that is growing at a much slower rate. The system as a whole, and those working in it, need to be respected.

Which is why I am concerned that this finite resource is being placed under increasing and undue pressure by irresponsible journals that are responding to market pressures. The driving force for journals is increasingly authors and particularly so in an OA system where the author is paying an article processing charge. This is the ‘gravy train’ so any marginal benefit a journal can offer authors gives them a market advantage – that benefit has become processing time. The shorter the time between manuscript submission and online publication, the greater the satisfaction of authors and so the potential for increasing submissions from reputational gain. This has a clear knock-on effect to the quality of submissions and subsequent Impact Factor calculations. Quite how important processing time is, is difficult to ascertain but it is one of the metrics that all publishers report on and Taylor and Francis (2015, 2016) note that two months to first decision appears to be the benchmark for an acceptable time (but who wouldn’t want it faster?!).

Why is this important within the context of peer review? Well some managing editors are becoming increasingly aggressive in pursuing short review times by not only requesting very short return periods (typically less than two weeks) and then repeatedly chasing reviewers, but also by requesting more reviews than they need. It is this latter tactic that is disturbing – for a manuscript that requires two reviews, an editor might request four or possibly five reviews and then take...
the first two to make a decision. So as a reviewer you could invest the time in reading and commenting on a manuscript only to find it’s either not needed or not used. This is a double whammy – not only are there more papers to review, but editors are requesting more reviews than they need. The system is over-heating and the strain is born by an increasingly reluctant review body who are being asked for more reviews over shorter times.

This has got to change and it needs reviewers to consistently challenge those journals and managing editors who abuse their position. So my plea to anyone asked to undertake a review in the future – ask the Editor-in-Chief if the journal has a policy of only requesting the reviews it needs. If they don’t, cordially decline and request they use a sustainable and ethical peer review process. And to journal publishers – ensnire this process at the managing level so that it can’t occur at individual journals.

We all want a reliable, punctual and sustainable review process – and the starting point for this is refusing to review for those that abuse their position.

2. A year in numbers: 2017

With 2017 coming to a close, and planning for the JoM through 2018 now well underway, it is pleasing to see that this year has seen the trend of increased submissions, reduced peer review times, and our continued focus upon the best manuscripts and maps. In 2016 we published 206 articles across 1875 pages, whilst this year we published 109 articles across 1007 pages. Last year had a large article count as a result of publishing out our backlog – this year we are well ahead of the 72 articles in 2015. In short, the Journal of Maps is thriving and authors want to publish maps.

Our Impact Factor (2016) increased from 1.435 to 2.174; this substantial increase reflects the importance placed on publishing ‘data’ (and maps broadly fall within this category) alongside their actual results. But maps go deeper into the psyche of the spatial researcher – they are an output for the end user and a meaningful outcome for the individual. Overall total incoming citations increased from 470 to 872. Downloads from the Taylor and Francis website for 2016 totaled 50,125, with 2017 recording 94,438 downloads for the first three quarters of the year (35,598 at the same point last year).

In terms of metrics for individual articles, the top five cited (2015–2017) and downloaded (2017) are:

**Most cited (2015–2017)**

Bianucci, G., Di Celma, C., Landini, W., Post, K., Tinelli, C., de Muizon, C., Gariboldi, K., Malinverno, E., Cantalamessa, G., Gioncada, A., Collareta, A., Gismondi, RS., Varas-Malca, R., Urbina, M., Lambert, O. (2016)

Distribution of fossil marine vertebrates in Cerro Colorado, the type locality of the giant raptorial sperm whale Livyatan melvillei (Miocene, Pisco Formation, Peru)

Citations: 21.

Di Celma, C., Malinverno, E., Gariboldi, K., Gioncada, A., Rustichelli, A., Pierantoni, PP., Landini, W., Bosio, G., Tinelli, C., Bianucci, G. (2016b)

Stratigraphic framework of the late Miocene to Pliocene Pisco Formation at Cerro Colorado (Ica Desert, Peru)

Citations: 16.

Di Celma, C., Malinverno, E., Cantalamessa, G., Gioncada, A., Bosio, G., Villa, IM., Gariboldi, K., Rustichelli, A., Pierantoni, PP., Landini, W., Tinelli, C., Collareta, A., Bianucci, G. (2016a)

Stratigraphic framework of the late Miocene Pisco Formation at Cerro Los Quesos (Ica Desert, Peru)

Citations: 12.

Margold, M., Stokes, CR., Clark, CD., Kleman, J. (2015)

Ice streams in the Laurentide Ice Sheet: a new mapping inventory

Citations: 11.

Evans, D.J.A., Ewertowski, M., Orton, C. (2016)

Flaaajokull (north lobe), Iceland: active temperate piedmont lobe glacial landsystem

Citations: 10.

**Most downloads (2017)**

Beconytë, G., Eismontaitë, A., Žemaitienë, J. (2014)

Mythical creatures of Europe.

Downloads: 2098.

Piana, F., Fioraso, G., Itrace, A., Mosca, P., d’Atri, A., Barale, L., Falletti, P., Monegato, G., Morelli, M., Tallone, S. and Vigna, G.B. (2017)

Geology of Piemonte region (NW Italy, Alps–Apennines interference zone)

Downloads: 1386.

Neri, M., De Maio, M., Crepaldi, S., Suozzi, E., Lavy, M., Marchionatti, F., Calvari, S. and Buongiorno, M.F. (2017)

Topographic Maps of Mount Etna’s Summit Craters, updated to December 2015

Downloads: 1347.

Brewer, S., Giesecke, T., Davis, B.A.S., Finsinger, W., Wolters, S., Binney, H., de Beaulieu, J-L., Fyfe, R., Gil-Romera, G., Kühl, N., Kuneš, P., Leydet, M. and Bradshaw, R.H. (2017)

Late-glacial and Holocene European pollen data

Downloads: 1238.

Bickerdike, H.L., Evans, D.J.A., Ó’Cofaigh, C., Stokes, C.R. (2016)
### Table 1. Referees at the journal of maps.

| Reviewer salutation | Reviewer first name | Reviewer last name | Reviewer institution                        |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Dr                  | Mahmoud             | Abdelfattah        | Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi             |
| Mr                  | Ignacio             | Aguirre-Ayerve     | IU Cantabria                                |
| Professor           | Teresa              | Andeweg            |                                            |
| Dr                  | Andrea              | Antoni             | Università degli Studi di Parma             |
| Dr                  | Nigel               | Atkinson           | Alberta Geological Survey                  |
| Dr                  | Valentina           | Bacciu             | Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici |
| Dr                  | Catherine           | Baker              | Birmingham City University                  |
| Dr                  | Daniel              | Ballesteros        | Universidad de Oviedo                       |
| Dr                  | A                   | Barbati            | Università degli Studi di Roma              |
| Dr                  | Giovanna            | Barreca            | University of Catania                       |
| Professor           | Ligia               | Barroso            | University of São Paulo                     |
| Mrs                 | Carlotta            | Bartelletti        | Università degli Studi di Pisa              |
| Dr                  | Rainer              | Bell               | Università di Roma                           |
| Dr                  | Marco               | Beltrando          | Università degli Studi di Roma              |
| Dr                  | Mario               | Bentivenga         | Università degli Studi di Roma              |
| Dr                  | Richard C.          | Berg               | Illinois State Geological Survey            |
| Dr                  | Alfons              | Berger             | Universitat Bern                             |
| Dr                  | Simon               | Blainey            |                                            |
| Dr                  | Anna Maria          | Blumetti           | Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale |
| Dr                  | Daniele             | Bocchiola          | DICA Politecnico Milano                     |
| Dr                  | Edoardo             | Borghese           | University of Oxford                        |
| Dr                  | Clare               | Boston             | University of Portsmouth                    |
| Dr                  | Tracy A.            | Brennand           | Simon Fraser University                     |
| Dr                  | Michal              | Brezny             | Ostravská Univerzita v Ostrave              |
| Dr                  | Željka               | Brkic              | Hrvatski geološki institut (Croatian Geological Survey) |
| Dr                  | Benjamin            | Brock              | Northhumbria University                      |
| Dr                  | Alberto Vitale      | Brovarone          | CNRS                                        |
| Dr                  | Brian               | Caufield           | TCD                                         |
| Dr                  | Rodrigo             | Cerri              | São Paulo State University                  |
| Professor           | Jose                | Chacon             | Universidad de Granada                      |
| Dr                  | Helder              | Chaminé            | University of Aveiro                        |
| Dr                  | Zeng-long           | Chen               |                                            |
| Dr                  | David               | Chester            | University of Liverpool                     |
| Mr                  | Tomas               | Chuman             | Czech Geological Survey                     |
| Dr                  | Alastair            | Clement            |                                             |
| Professor           | Beatriz             | Cirra              | Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnicas |
| Dr                  | C.                  | Colombo            | Molise University                           |
| Dr                  | Timo                | Conradi            |                                             |
| Dr                  | Paolo               | Conti              | University of Siena                         |
| Dr                  | Simon               | Cook               |                                             |
| Dr                  | Luke                | Copland            | University of Ottawa                        |
| Dr                  | James               | Corbett            |                                             |
| Professor           | Domenico            | Cosentino          | Università degli Studi Roma Tre             |
| Dr                  | Peter               | Cosins             |                                             |
| Dr                  | Emilio              | Cuoco              | Ohio State University                       |
| Dr                  | Chris               | Darvill            |                                             |
| Ms                  | Gemma               | Davies             | Lancaster University                        |
| Dr                  | Aysen               | Davraz             | Suleyman Demirel University                  |
| Dr                  | Cathy               | Delaney            |                                             |
| Dr                  | Irene               | Delgado-Fernandez  | Edge Hill University                        |
| Dr                  | Francesco           | Delleoani          | Università degli Studi di Milano            |
| Dr                  | Stefano             | Devoto             | University of Trieste                       |
| Dr                  | Rahul               | Devrani            | Jawaharlal Nehru University                 |
| Dr                  | Claudio             | Di Celma           | University of Camerino                      |
| Dr                  | Gianluigi           | Di Paola           | Università degli Studi del Molise           |
| Dr                  | Federico            | Di Traglia         | University of Firenze                       |
| Dr                  | Mahmut              | Dingil             | Cukurova Univ                               |
| Dr                  | Uwe                 | Dornbusch          | Environment Agency                          |
| Professor           | Francesco           | Dramis             | Roma Tre University                         |
| Dr                  | Peijun              | Du                 | Nanjing Univ                                |
| Dr                  | Yun                 | Duan               | Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences |
| Miss                | Jenny               | Dunseath           | Bath Spa University                         |
| Dr                  | Jason               | Dykes              | City University                             |
| Ms                  | Jeanette            | Eckert             |                                             |
| Professor           | David               | Evans              | University of Durham                        |
| Dr                  | Jeremy              | Everest            | British Geological Survey                   |
| Dr                  | Marek               | Ewetowski          | Adam Mickiewicz University                  |
| Professor           | Caroline            | Eyles              |                                             |
| Dr                  | Simone              | Fabbi              | Sapienza University                         |
| Dr                  | Francesco           | Faccini            | University of Genova                        |
| Miss                | Kate                | Fahey              |                                             |
| Dr                  | Daniel              | Falaschi           |                                             |
| Reviewer salutation | Reviewer first name | Reviewer last name | Reviewer institution |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Dr                  | Josip               | Faričić            | Sveučiliste u Zadru  |
| Dr                  | Neil S.             | Ferguson           | University of Cambridge |
| Dr                  | Andrea              | Festa              | Università degli Studi di Torino |
| Dr                  | Francesca           | Filocamo           | Molise University    |
| Dr                  | David               | Forrest            | University of Glasgow |
| Dr                  | Paolo               | Frattini           | University of Milano Bicocca |
| Dr                  | Ines                | Fuertes-Gutierrez  | University of Leon   |
| Dr                  | Antonio             | Funedda            | Universita di Capilari |
| Dr                  | Juan-Luis           | Garcia             | Instituto de Geografia |
| Dr                  | Russell             | Gasser             | University of Wisconsin |
| Dr                  | Blagio              | Giaccio            | University of Vigo   |
| Dr                  | Luis                | Gimeno             | University of Vigo   |
| Dr                  | F. Javier           | Gracia             | Universidad de Cádiz |
| Dr                  | Alison              | Graettinger        | University of Missouri Kansas City |
| Dr                  | David               | Green              | University of Aberdeen |
| Professor           | Ken                 | Gregory            | University of London |
| Dr                  | Hywel               | Griffiths          |                     |
| Dr                  | Jon Ove             | Hagen              |                     |
| Dr                  | Hrafnhildur         | Hannesdottir       | University of Iceland |
| Dr                  | Harriet             | Hawkins            |                     |
| Dr                  | Benjamin            | Heumann            |                     |
| Dr                  | Tom                 | Holt               | Aberystwyth University |
| Mr                  | Christoph           | Hornmann           |                     |
| Dr                  | Doug                | Howard             | US Geological Survey |
| Dr                  | Alessandro          | Incarbona          | University of Milan |
| Dr                  | Rossman             | Irwin              |                     |
| Dr                  | Lasafam             | Iturriaga          | University of Goettingen |
| Dr                  | Krister             | Jansson            | Stockholm University |
| Dr                  | Peng                | Jia                | Unversität Twente   |
| Professor           | Bernie              | Joyce              | University of Melbourne |
| Mr                  | Theodoros           | Karampaglidis      | Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana |
| Dr                  | Ivo                 | Karmann            | Universidade de São Paulo |
| Dr                  | Niina               | Kayhko             |                     |
| Dr                  | Andreas             | Kellerer-Pirklbauer |                  |
| Dr                  | Samuel E.           | Kelley             | SUNY Buffalo        |
| Professor           | Zoran               | Kilbarda           |                     |
| Dr                  | Owen                | King               | University of Leeds |
| Dr                  | Edwin S.            | Kite               | University of Chicago |
| Professor           | Satoru              | Kojima             | Gifu Daigaku        |
| Dr                  | Joseph              | Kopera             |                     |
| Dr                  | Niels               | Korsgaard          | Haskoli Islands     |
| Dr                  | Caglar              | Koylu              | University of Iowa  |
| Dr                  | Stanislav           | Kraft              | Jihoceska Univerzita v Ceskych Budejovicich |
| Dr                  | John                | Krygier            |                     |
| Dr                  | John                | Landis             |                     |
| Dr                  | Mitchel             | Langford           | University of South Wales |
| Dr                  | Alexandra           | Lefort             | University of Tennessee Knoxville |
| Dr                  | Erika E.            | Lentz              | US Geological Survey |
| Dr                  | John                | Lewis              |                     |
| Dr                  | Rob                 | Lewis              |                     |
| Dr                  | Cristina            | Linacur            | National Scientific Research Institute for Labor and Social Protection |
| Professor           | Lin                 | Liu                |                     |
| Dr                  | Lidia               | Lonergan           |                     |
| Dr                  | Guo                 | Long               | Huazhong Agricultural University |
| Mr                  | Thomas              | Lorscheid          |                     |
| Dr                  | Sergio              | Lourenco           | University of Hong Kong |
| Dr                  | Harold              | Lovell             | University of Portsmouth |
| Dr                  | Federica            | Lucá              | University of Calabria |
| Dr                  | Robert              | Lizar              |                     |
| Dr                  | Juliana             | Maantay            | City University of New York |
| Professor           | Paolo               | Magliulo           | Universita degli Studi del Sannio |
| Dr                  | Ivan                | Martini            | Università di Siena |
| Professor           | Manuel              | Martin-Martín     |                     |
| Dr                  | Francesco           | Masioli            | Coastal Research Station, Norderney |
| Dr                  | Patrick             | Matgen             | Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology |
| Dr                  | Yo                  | Matsuara           | University of Virginia |
| Dr                  | Stephen             | McCarron           | National University of Ireland Maynooth |
| Mr                  | Danny               | McNally            | University of Reading |
| Dr                  | Vincius             | Meira              | Universidade Estadual de Campinas |
| Dr                  | Jean-François       | Mignot             | Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique |
| Dr                  | Alfonso             | Milia              | CNR                   |
| Mr                  | Antonio             | Molina             | Centro de Astrobiologia |
| Dr                  | David               | Morche             | Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg |
| Dr                  | Ana                 | Moreira Teodoro    |                     |
| Dr                  | Giovanni            | Musumeci           | Università di Pisa   |
| Dr                  | Janez               | Nared              | Slovenian Academy of Sciences |

(Continued)
Table 1. Continued.

| Reviewer salutation | Reviewer first name | Reviewer last name | Reviewer institution                                           |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr                  | Marco               | Neri               | Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia                |
| Dr                  | Andy                | Newing             |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Iacopoli            | Nenci              |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Glenn               | Norcliffe          | York University                                               |
| Dr                  | Jeffrey             | Obelcz             | Louisiana State University                                    |
| Dr                  | Scott               | Orford             |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Gaetano             | Ortolano           | University of Catania                                         |
| Professor           | Luca                | Pandolfi           | Università di Pisa                                           |
| Professor           | Gerardo             | Pappone            | Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope                   |
| Dr                  | Mauricio            | Parra              | University of São Paulo                                      |
| Mr                  | Vit                 | Paszto             | Palacky University Olomou                                     |
| Dr                  | Dhrvash P.          | Patel              | Sardar Patel Univ                                             |
| Dr                  | Romeo C.            | Pati               | University Rizal Syst                                         |
| Dr                  | Tom                 | Patterson          |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Juanjo              | Peon               | Universidad de Oviedo                                         |
| Dr                  | Diamantino          | Pereira            | University of Porto/University of Minho                      |
| Professor           | Marco               | Petri              | Sapienza University of Rome                                   |
| Dr                  | Benoit              | Petri              | Universite de Lausanne                                       |
| Dr                  | Tad                 | Pfeiffer           |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Marco               | Pfeiffer           | Univ Nad Autonoma Mexico                                      |
| Dr                  | Pietro              | Pirciuci           | University of Siena                                           |
| Dr                  | Ruth                | Plets              | University of Ulster                                         |
| Dr                  | Brooks              | Proctor            |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Alasdaire           | Raffa              | University of Sheffield                                       |
| Dr                  | D. Ramakrishnan     | Raposo             | Indian Institute of Technology                                |
| Dr                  | Paulo               | Raposo             | University of Tennessee                                       |
| Dr                  | Eric                | Reed               | Western Kentucky University                                   |
| Professor           | Keir                | Reeves             | Federation University                                         |
| Dr                  | Daniele             | Regis              | University of Bern                                            |
| Dr                  | Tim                 | Ritter             | Universität für Bodenkultur                                   |
| Dr                  | M. Roda             | Rondoyanni – Tsiampaou | National Technical University of Athens                        |
| Dr                  | Leonardo             | Rosati             | Università della Basilicata                                  |
| Dr                  | Robert              | Roth               | University of Wisconsin-Madison                               |
| Dr                  | Alessio             | Roveere            | Columbia University                                           |
| Mr                  | Julian              | Ruddock            |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Riccardo            | Salvini            | University of Siena                                           |
| Mr                  | Anderson            | Santos             | UERJ                                                          |
| Dr                  | Tatsuhiko           | Sato               | Japan Atomic Energy Agency                                    |
| Dr                  | Chee                | Saunders           |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Samuele             | Segoni             | University of Firenze                                         |
| Dr                  | Sergio              | Sepulveda          | Universidad de Chile                                         |
| Dr                  | René                | Sieber             |                                                               |
| Professor           | Alex                | Singleton          | UCL                                                           |
| Dr                  | Hana                | Skokanová          | Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening |
| Dr                  | Aidan               | Slingsby           | City University London                                        |
| Dr                  | Terry               | Slocum             |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Jessica M.          | Slomka             | University of Toronto                                         |
| Dr                  | Dianna              | Smith              |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Miriam              | Snellen            |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Mauro               | Soldati            | Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia                          |
| Mr                  | Thomas              | Stanley            | Universities Space Research Association                      |
| Dr                  | Nina                | Stark              |                                                               |
| Professor           | Mark                | Stirling           | University of Otago                                           |
| Dr                  | Andrew              | Stumpf             | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign                    |
| Dr                  | Tomaz               | Sturmi             |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Alexandra           | Suhogusoff         |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Peter               | Surovy             |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Sara                | Taviani            | Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicoca                      |
| Dr                  | Laura               | Thomson            | Simon Fraser University                                       |
| Dr                  | Varyl               | Thorsdycraft       | Royal Holloway University of London                            |
| Dr                  | Alexander           | Tillmann           | Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main                           |
| Dr                  | Brian J.            | Todd               | Geological Survey of Canada                                  |
| Dr                  | Alicia              | Torregrosa         | US Geological Survey                                          |
| Dr                  | Maurizio            | Torrente           | Università degli Studi del Sannio                             |
| Dr                  | Andreas             | Triebach           |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Janez               | Turk               | Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute   |
| Dr                  | Jason               | VanHorn            | Calvin College                                                |
| Dr                  | Julian A.           | Velasco            | Univ Nad Autonoma Mexico                                      |
| Dr                  | Guido               | Ventura            | Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia                |
| Dr                  | Jesús               | Ventura-Fernández  | University of Seville                                         |
| Dr                  | Giuseppe            | Veronico           | IBBR-CNR                                                      |
| Professor           | Brian               | Whalley            |                                                               |
| Dr                  | Ellen               | Wohl               | Colorado State Univ                                           |
| Dr                  | Cafer Mert          | Yeşilkanan         | Artvin Coruh Universitesi                                    |
| Professor           | Steve               | Young              | Salem State University                                        |
The glacial geomorphology of the Loch Lomond Stadial in Britain: a map and geographic information system resource of published evidence.

Downloads: 1120.

3. Best map award

For 2017 the ‘Best Map’ was judged by the formal awards panel comprised of myself, Dr Dick Berg, Professor Keith Clarke, Professor David Martin, and Mr Chris Orton (and this section reflects our combined comments). Contributions are assessed upon both their academic content and cartographic quality. It is neither the best academic paper nor the best designed map, but a combination of qualities from both areas that is judged the winner. The following 10 maps were short listed for the award:

Making ‘Retail Mobility Environments’ visible for collaborative transport planning
Aldo Arranz-López, Julio A. Soria-Lara, Carlos López-Escolano & Ángel Pueyo Campos (2017)

Geomorphology of Mount Ararat/Ağrı Dağı ( Ağrı Dağı Milli Parki, Eastern Anatolia, Turkey)
Roberto Sergio Azzoni, Andrea Zerboni, Manuela Pelﬁni, Carlo Alberto Garzonio, Raffaello Cioni, Eraldo Meraldi, Claudio Smiraglia & Guglielmina Adele Diolaiuti (2017)

Stage finishes – mapping the locations and results of Tour de France (1903–2016)
Vladimír Bačík & Michal Klobučník (2017)

The glacial geomorphology of the Lago Buenos Aires and Lago Pueyrredón ice lobes of central Patagonia
Jacob M. Bendle, Varyl R. Thondycraft & Adrian P. Palmer (2017)

Snow avalanche hazard of the Krkonoše National Park, Czech Republic
Jan Blahut, Jan Kliměš, Jan Balek, Petr Hájek, Lucie Červená & Jakub Lysák (2017)

Pseudokarst caves of the Outer Western Carpathians, Czechia
Jan Lenart & Jan Miklin (2017)

HazMatMapper: an online and interactive geographic visualization tool for exploring transnational flows of hazardous waste and environmental justice
Eric Nost, Heather Rosenfeld, Kristen Vincent, Sarah A. Moore & Robert E. Roth (2017)

Automated layout of origin–destination flow maps: U.S. county-to-county migration 2009–2013
Daniel M. Stephen & Bernhard Jenny (2017)

World political map from OpenStreetMap data
Dražen Tutić, Tomislav Jogun, Ana Kuveždić Divjak & Martina Triplat Horvat (2017)

Rock glaciers in the Western and High Tatra Mountains, Western Carpathians
Tomáš Uxa & Peter Mida (2017)

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce the award of the 2017 ‘Best Map’ to Daniel Stephen (Oregon State University) and Bernhard Jenny (RMIT University) for their animated flow map of migration in the United States for 2009–2013. Flow maps are both visually appealing in showing the movement of ‘quantities’, but also frustrating given the number of potential variable interactions that are possible and so the likelihood of overlapping symbols. This paper outlines the accompanying interactive map that shows a vast amount of population migration data at state and county level, with net flows, total flows and incoming and outgoing migration. Interpretation and understanding are the aim of the authors and they deliver an appealing and elegant solution. As one of the review panel summarized, a huge amount of information that is really clear and simple [to understand]. For these reasons, it is a deserving winner of this year’s award.

4. With gratitude and thanks

As in previous years, I would like to acknowledge those that have contributed to the publication of the journal, but particularly authors and readers. These two overlapping communities are what make journal publication such a vibrant and exciting sector to work in – the diverse and interesting material that authors submit and our readers avidly consume. And our download and citation statistics show the wide range of interest there is in the articles we publish. But as I said at the beginning, reviewers are the oil that grease the wheels of motion. As a community we self-assess the material we publish in order to create overall improvement in individual submissions but also, as a whole, push forward the boundaries of science. So thank to all who contribute to our endeavor.

I am also grateful to the team at JoM which includes the Associate Editors (Table 1) and those at Taylor and Francis (and in particular Eilise Norris, Robert Marsh and Andrew Kelly). I would also like to formally acknowledge the referees (Table 2) who gave up their time and expertise for review.

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