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Welcome to Open Water Journal

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Letter from the Editors

Daniel P. Ames¹, Ann van Griensven², Richard Hooper³, Anthony Castronova⁴, Christina Bandaragoda⁵, Nigel W.T. Quinn⁶

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Welcome to Open Water Journal, an open access, peer-reviewed, water science journal with special emphasis on development and application of open data, open source software, and open science in the water domain. As the editorial board of Open Water, we are excited to introduce the current issue and share some insights into the history and future of this publication.

In 2011, Ann van Griensven organized the 1st OpenWater Symposium in Delft, The Netherlands. This was followed by two more highly successful symposia in 2013 (Brussels, Belgium) and 2015 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). This year (2017), the 4th OpenWater Symposium is being held in Brussels with the theme, “Exploring the Water Cloud”. The abstracts from this series of symposia have been published as the first several issues of Open Water Journal.

With the current issue, we enthusiastically build upon the OpenWater symposia as we move toward a full peer-reviewed paper format. This has been made possible through the generous sharing of software and server space by the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University.

Some have asked, why another journal? We recognize that there are a number of important and well-established water science journals which follow both open and restricted access models. However,

the growing amount of research specifically related to open data, open software, and open water science strongly suggested the development of this journal.

Research programs such as NSF EarthCube in the U.S. and Water Framework Directive in Europe have led to a relative deluge of new and compelling outcomes that need to be reported in the scientific literature. Open Water is ready to publish your case studies, software introductions, data descriptions, and research articles that use or develop open data and software.

Open Water is unique in that it may be the only open access journal for water science that is completely managed and edited by water scientists.

- Our Editor-in-Chief, Dan Ames (Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA) is an expert in developing open source software interfaces for hydrologic models using his MapWindow GIS, HydroDesktop, and DotSpatial projects.
- Ann van Griensven (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium) is a world leader in watershed scale modelling and uncertainty analysis using models like SWAT, and she is the originator of the OpenWater Symposia series out of which this journal grew.

- Rick Hooper (Tufts University, USA) was the founding Executive Director of the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science (CUAHSI) which develops and deploys open data standards and software for the water research community.
- Tony Castronova (CUAHSI, Boston, Massachusetts, USA) has extensive experience developing model linking tools and web services based technologies and is a senior data scientist at CUAHSI.
- Christina Bandaragoda (University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA) is an expert in participatory and collaborative watershed modelling and spatially distributed model development and calibration.
- Nigel Quinn (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA) is a leader in the development and application of water and environmental decision support systems in the US and internationally.

We look forward to bringing you into the Open Water community as an author, reviewer, and/or editor in the years to come.

In the coming year we anticipate releasing at least four issues of *Open Water*, two of which will include conference proceedings from the 2017 OpenWater Symposia and the CUAHSI Hydroinformatics conference. Our vision is to become the leading source of information on development and application of state of the art open source practices in fields of study related to water. Our long-term goal as a journal is to become a highly visible and well-respected venue for appropriate papers, and to be listed and indexed with impact factors and other metrics.

In summary, we are pleased to share this new scholarly journal with you and the larger water resources community and hope that you will help *Open Water* grow to fulfill its significant potential.