

EDITORIAL

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On January 1, 2004, Dr. Louise Hose resigned as Editor of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* (JCKS) so that she could focus attention on her new duties as Director of the recently established National Cave and Karst Research Institute. As Editor for the past eight years, Dr. Hose managed several significant accomplishments with the *Journal*. Two accomplishments stand out, however. The first accomplishment was the elevation of the quality of papers published in JCKS, resulting in our recognition as one of the foremost karst journals in the world. The second accomplishment was the addition of JCKS to the Thomson ISI® services listing which includes Science Citation Index Expanded®, ISI Alerting Services®, and Current Contents® Physical, Chemical, and Earth Sciences® and distinguishes JCKS as the only karst publication currently sporting this distinction.

In December 2003, I accepted appointment as the new Editor of JCKS. My formal education focused on karst, and this focus has continued throughout my professional career. Currently, I am a senior research hydrogeologist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Research and Development where I am fortunate enough to be able to devote more than 90% of my time to karst-related issues. However, unlike most karst scientists who specialize in some aspect of speleogenesis, my interests are directed more toward addressing environmental problems associated with karstic terranes, particularly in terms of contamination of karstic aquifers and its attendant impacts on human health.



Learning all there is to know about editing JCKS is proving to be a substantial undertaking, but I am finding that good support is available to me with the assistance and advice of Dr. Louise Hose, Mr. Don Paquette, Dr. James Pisarowicz, Ms. Stephanie Searles, the *Journal* Associate Editors, and the Advisory Board from whom I am rapidly “learning the ropes,” as they say.

Although it will be exceedingly difficult to match the accomplishments of Dr. Hose, I intend to continue the dedication that is necessary for JCKS to maintain its status as one of the premier karst journals in the world. To this end, I have begun examining improvements such as a standard form for displaying tabular material which will be made avail-

able to prospective authors to facilitate table creation. To further assist authors in manuscript preparation, a set of templates conforming to the JCKS manuscript style is being developed for the most popular document-preparation platforms which include MS Word®, WordPerfect®, and LaTeX.

I would like to encourage prospective authors to consider submitting their manuscripts to JCKS. A review of past issues suggests a dearth of good exploration, social science, and conservation papers. It is my firm opinion that National Speleological Society (NSS) members will welcome papers addressing these topics as much as those more commonly represented in JCKS. I look forward to serving the NSS community and sharing in the knowledge that we are all striving to increase our understanding of caves and karst while working to preserve and protect our valuable karstlands.