
BOOK REVIEWS

Publishing in Soil Science: Historical Developments and Current Trends.

2002. Alfred E. Hartemink. *International Union of Soil Sciences, Vienna. 196 pp. (Price 20 Euro from the International Soil Reference and Information Center (ISRIC), Wageningen, The Netherlands).*

This is a most welcome compilation of A. Hartemink's (ISRIC, Wageningen) six recently published articles on publishing in soil science from the Bulletin of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), together with four other recently published articles (with additional authors) on the history of the International Society of Soil Science, on the content of 100 volumes of *Geoderma*, on comparison of tropical and temperate soil science, and an overview on publishing in science—the major topic of the volume.

Winfried Blum, then the secretary general of the IUSS, rightly points out in the foreword that, currently, soil science activity and hence the growing publication rate is undergoing a reorientation from mainly agricultural productivity to environmental issues. At the same time, there are continuous strong endeavors and activity in the major goal of pedology: elucidating the nature and genesis of soils as a natural resource that contributes in sustaining the planet. The biogeo-

chemical carbon dynamics and aspects of the water cycle continue to be focal points in many publications. New directions, like pedometrics and pedotransfer functions are evident, which have contributed to the diminishing attention to field work and integrative accounts. Commercial enterprises have now taken over the majority of the publication activity and considerably enhanced the spread of electronic publishing. This is to the disadvantage of developing countries, which still contribute only a minor portion of quality publications.

It is frequently said that a research project is not completed unless published. The overall picture which emerges from this book is a healthy state of publishing activities in soil science. Those who have had difficulties in getting their work published, however, may disagree. The ISI impact factor is exerting a considerable influence on the major journals and the grey literature is partly being replaced by electronic publishing. The final article in this compilation also discusses possible future developments. Read the trend data carefully and form your own opinion.

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