

ISSUE FORUM 2: “CONCEPTS FOR, AND INTEREST IN, A NEW TYPE OF DATA-BASED ELECTRONIC JOURNAL”

FORUM GOALS

To explore concepts and a phased work plan for development of an electronic peer-reviewed journal for dissemination of high-quality data reports linked to the NEES data archives. The session will:

- explore alternative long-range (5-year horizon) models and concepts for a NEES e-journal;
- propose a development strategy with initial milestones and timeframes;
- examine resource requirements (costs and labor) from NEESinc, NEESit, and the community;
- explore strategies for assuring high-quality peer review;
- gauge overall community interest in pursuit of this goal;

SESSION COORDINATION

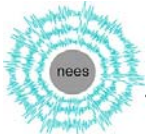
Session Moderator: **John Wallace**, UCLA Structural Prof., NEES ES PI, NEES BOD Member
NEESinc Facilitator: **Shannon Whitmore**, NEESit Development & Deployment Manager
(Pre-conference planning assistance from **Lelli Van Den Einde & Cliff Roblee**)

PANELISTS & PERSPECTIVE

Ricardo Dobry: RPI Geotechnical Prof., Retired NEES Director, E-Journal Concept Enthusiast
Andrei Reinhorn: UB Structural Prof., NEES Director, & Chair of DSAC, E-Journal Policy Lead
Bozidar Stojadinovic: UCB Structural Prof., Experimental Researcher Perspective
Tim Warnock: NEESit Senior Data Architect; IT Considerations

STRAWMAN STRATEGIES FOR CONSIDERATION

- The 5-year vision for a NEES E-Journal is to spearhead development of a prototype electronic journal for archival-quality data reports, simulation reports, and presentation of models and interpretations. The journal would include interactive multimedia figures, and active scalable tables and charts that are linked to underlying data sets in the NEES central data archives. Dobry 2005 describes this as “Every table, figure, and numerical correlation, simulation or conclusion in a e-journal article could be backed up by user-friendly and peer-reviewed data sets which can be accessed interactively from the text of the electronic paper, with everything being downloadable.”
- The 1st milestone toward the 5-year vision should be the development of a peer-reviewed electronic and hard copy data report that provides a publication venue for high-quality experimental data sets that have undergone the NEES data curation process. Hard copy articles should be relatively brief (say 5-10 pages) and be published in association with existing journals. The electronic version shall include all the information presented in the hard copy plus provide interactive links and downloadable archived data sets.
- The action items that should be initiated by NEESinc include:
 - Form a NEESinc Working Group of engineering researchers and IT resources to propose a plan for consideration by the Board within 6 months.
 - The Working group should outline a credible peer review process, complementary to the data curation process, including development of review standards and guidelines.
 - The Working Group should consider recommendation of a reviewer stipend amount and financing mechanism that will encourage in-depth review of the data sets to assure completeness, consistency, and clarity.
 - The Working group should explore the merits and limitations of potential partnerships with existing publishers for the hard copy component.



INITIAL E-POLLING QUESTIONS (Additional questions may be developed onsite)

1. Based on what I have heard today, an Electronic Journal, with a digital counterpart, has the potential of being unique and different vs. other journals in the field.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral or Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

2. Universities are likely to recognize such a journal for promotion and tenure.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral or Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

3. We should produce a hard copy counterpart to the Electronic Journal.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral or Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

4. Should the journal be a "club journal" within NEES or should it be opened up to the greater community?
 - a. Club journal
 - b. Open it up to the greater community
 - c. Not sure

5. The journal should accept papers from work not done in a NEES facility.
 - a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Neutral or Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

6. Given the importance of data/data review for the envisioned journal, when should data curation be required?
 - a. When the paper is submitted for initial review
 - b. After the paper is accepted, but prior to the paper being published
 - c. After the paper is in print
 - d. Whenever the author gets around to it

7. What is your computer operating system of choice? (please select one only)
 - a. Linux
 - b. Macintosh
 - c. Windows
 - d. Unix
 - e. Other

8. What is your word processing application/program of choice? (please select one only)
 - a. LaTeX (unix)
 - b. Lotus Notes
 - b. MS Word
 - c. Nisus Writer
 - d. OpenWord
 - e. WordPerfect
 - f. Other