

Planetary science diamond open access journal kick-off meeting

November 14, 16:00 CET

Why create a new journal?

- Most journals have paywalls to access scientific articles. If there is no paywall, someone else paid for you!
- Many journals have high article processing fees to publish as open access (from \$2000 up to \$11,000).
- Most journals do very little to promote published articles to the public.
- The operating procedures of most journals are opaque.
- It is nearly impossible to change long-standing journal policies and procedures of the biggest journals.
- Most journals exploit free labor from authors, reviewers, and readers for profit.

What could we do better?

- **Diamond Open Access:** free for authors, free for readers, free for libraries.
- **Different article types:** research articles, letters, reviews, missions and instrumentation, datasets, numerical codes, commentaries.
- **Transparent governance:** Community run with an open forum for changing journal policies.
- **Responsive and proactive:** Attention to author and reader needs, with a rapid implementation of new ideas.
- **Promotion of journal content:** Experimentation using social media, a journal blog with short article summaries, and images of the week.
- **Better and quicker reviews:** Creation of a reviewer expertise database to identify underutilized reviewers.

Can it be done?

- **Volcanica**: Open since 2018. ~30 articles per year.
- **Seismica**: Open since 2022. ~60 articles per year.
- **Tektonika**: Open since 2023. ~20 articles per year.
- **Sedimentologika**: Open since 2023. ~15 articles per year.
- **Geomorphica**: Open since 2024.
- **Geophysical Research**: Just opened!
- **Geodynamica**: Opens in 2025.
- **Advances in Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry**: Opens in 2025.

How much does it cost to do it ourselves?

Web hosting of OJS (Open Journal Systems) journal management software with Public Knowledge Project	\$1500
Register domain name / DNS	\$10
Crossref annual registration fee	\$275
100 DOIs	\$100
Crossref similarity check using iThenticate (100 manuscripts)	\$55
TOTAL	\$1940 per year

Not included: Copyediting, proofreading, manuscript production (conversion from docx/latex to pdf and HTML). Most DOAJ journals use volunteers for these tasks.

OPUS

Open Publishing Services

Plateforme d'édition en accès ouvert d'Université Paris Cité, OPUS - Open Publishing Services - publie des livres scientifiques et revues académiques en sciences et techniques, santé, sociétés et humanités. Les services mis à la disposition des communautés scientifiques couvrent l'ensemble du processus éditorial : évaluation des manuscrits, réalisation des ouvrages, publication et référencement. Tous les contenus publiés sur OPUS sont évalués par les pairs. [En savoir plus](#)

<https://opus.u-paris.fr/>

- The Open Publishing Services (OPUS) of the Université Paris Cité opened in September 2022.
- OPUS provides hosting services using the OJS journal management software, and can also provide copyediting, proofreading and productions services.
- Our journal would represent their first serious journal in the physical sciences.

What is the cost of OPUS?

One-time fee to set up server, OJS, journal website, latex templates.	600€
Annual server maintenance with support.	1200€
Production: conversion of author manuscripts to PDF and HTML, interaction with authors for corrections, uploading of metadata, DOI attribution. Assumes 80% latex and 20% docx submissions.	9240€ for 100 articles
Copyediting, proofreading, bibliography formatting, language correction.	22,736€ for 100 articles
TOTAL (100 articles with production, but no copyediting)	10 k€ per year

- We will likely publish fewer than 100 articles the first year or two.
- Prices are approximate. We could do some tasks ourselves, and the latex/docx ratio is to be defined. Prices would be cheaper if only latex were accepted.

Funding possibilities

- **Université Paris Cité** – Directly funds OPUS.
- **IPGP (Institut de physique du globe de Paris)** – Geoscience institute within UPC.
- **Planetary and Space Sciences group at IPGP** – Could provide initial funding for the first year.
- **Europlanet Society** – Informal discussion indicates that they would be favorable to funding a few k€ per year.
- **French or European research grants** – Not sure which program is appropriate.

Roadmap

Before the end of the year

- Pick a name for the journal
- Finalize the journal scope, peer review procedure, and governance.
- Write LPSC abstract describing the initiative.

Before LPSC (March 2025)

- Create website with basic info to increase community participation.
- Begin process of creating a journal logo and visual identity.
- Decide on expected editor workload, and the number of required editors and associate editors.
- Create an Editor/Associate-editor search committee.

March (2025) @LPSC

- Reserve breakout room for community information session.
- Announce call for editors and associate editors.

September (2025)

- Finalize editorial board.
- Launch reviewer expertise database.
- Finalize latex/docx manuscript templates.
- Finalize manuscript preparation guidelines and submission checklist.

December (2025)

- Editor training with OJS journal management software.
- Finish writing remaining journal policies.

January (2026) or before

- Open for submissions!

Risks

- Insufficient funding to provide manuscript production services. Can we scale to 300 articles per year?
- Difficulty in assembling the Editorial board: We will need a well known editor in chief, about 4 or 5 respected editors, and 10+ associate editors.
- Insufficient interest from the planetary science community. We will not have an impact factor for at least two years, and articles will initially not be indexed with Web of Science.

Homework

1. Propose a name for the journal, and comment on suggested names. Begin down-selection next week.

- [Journal name discussion link](#)

2. Review website and journal policies text

- [About the journal blurb](#)
- [Journal scope](#)
- [Manuscript types](#)
- [Website organization](#)

3. Discuss on the forum and then write:

- [Peer review process](#)
- [Governance](#)

4. Invite people to participate. This is a community project. Everyone is welcome!

- [Forum invitation link](#)
- Email list: send message to sympa@listes.u-paris.fr with subject: subscribe planetary-science.doaj

Extras

We need volunteers to lead these tasks!

Reviewer expertise database task force: The software exists (from Seismica), we just need to make a subject index.

Media task force: We need to create social media accounts, and come up with ideas on how to promote the work published in the journal.

Logo and visual identity task force: We need to come up with a logo, images for the website, article latex and docx templates, and more.

Journal policies task force: Plagiarism, Name changes, Dual-publication/pre-prints, Ethics, Code availability, Data availability, Use of AI, Code of conduct, Privacy statement, Use of proprietary and/or embargoed data...

Journal name suggestions

- The Open Journal of Planetary Science (OJPS)
- Open Journal of Planetary Research (OJPR)
- Journal of Planetary Research (JPR)
- Advances in Planetary Science (APS)
- Planetaria
- Planeterica
- Planetary Perspectives
- Planetology

Aims and scope

{Journal-name} is devoted to publishing original research in the field of planetary science. We welcome work that is based on analyses of data derived from spacecraft and Earth-based observatories, laboratory measurements of extraterrestrial materials, theoretical and numerical modeling of planetary phenomena, and analyses of terrestrial analog sites and materials. Studies of other planetary systems and exoplanets are welcome when the investigation can be supported by experimental data or observations, and when the results are presented in a comparative planetology context. Studies about solar and stellar phenomena that impact planetary objects are also welcome. Studies in the field of astrobiology are welcome when they have consequences for the interpretation of planetary data. Manuscripts that focus on studies of Earth are welcome when they are presented in a comparative planetology context. Original research can be presented in the form of research articles, short letters, or reviews, and additional article types exist for the description of planetary missions, instrumentation, numerical codes, and datasets. Commentaries that express a point of view on a topic, or that discuss issues that may be of interest to the readers of the journal, are also welcome.