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## EDITORIAL

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Geologica Acta came into existence eight years ago as an offshoot of a local journal, Acta Geologica Hispanica, promoted by the University of Barcelona and the Institute of Earth Sciences “Jaume Almera” of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The aim of the new journal was to broaden the scope and the readership and to improve the quality of the former journal, taking advantage of nearly 40 years of experience. This transition involved focusing more on general topics of geology than on local problems, adjusting to the new challenges of the scientific community, broadening the editorial committee and adopting English as the language of communication. Since 2003 an increase in the quality and quantity of manuscripts arriving at the editorial office has accompanied a thematic and geographical diversity of the contributions. In 2007 the journal attained a high Impact Factor in the category of Geology of the Journal Citation Reports® and, at present, it continues to be a top quality international Earth Science journal.

Editing a journal is a collective project. In 2003, the local scientific community foresaw the need to raise Acta Geologica Hispanica to an international level. This change was accomplished largely through the efforts of Professor Lluís Cabrera. Over the years, Geologica Acta has opened up to the international geological community and several hundred authors and reviewers have collaborated with the editorial committee in the preparation of the journal. Of the numerous manuscripts received, about 30 are accepted for publication every year. Given the demanding nature of this task, some of the managing scientific editors, who have been collaborating with Geologica Acta since 2003, will be stepping down this year. The editorial committee gratefully acknowledges their dedication and, at the same time, welcomes the new members. Special thanks are also due to Lluís Cabrera who is resigning as the editor-in-chief.

In geology, image is an essential part of communication. Good graphics and photos in most cases complement a well-written text. For this reason, the editorial board has decided to incorporate completely free-of-charge colour printing, both in the electronic and paper versions starting with this volume. Changes are also planned to the publishing process, which will demand a special effort from Laura Rincón, Journal Manager, and assistants, Ivan Pineda and Montserrat Puig. It is hoped that this commitment will soon translate into an easier and more efficient running of their vital editorial work.

New sponsors are supporting Geologica Acta. Last year several institutions joined the project and, at present, the journal is funded by the Universitat de Barcelona (UB), the Institute of Earth Sciences “Jaume Almera” (ICTJA-CSIC), the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA-CSIC), the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and the Institut Geològic de Catalunya (IGC). It receives additional financial support from the publications department of the Spanish National Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, CSIC). This year the incorporation of a new partner, the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), is evidence of the strength of the journal and is testimony to the confidence of these institutions in its future.

The members of the Editorial Board, the Managing Scientific Editors and the Advisory Scientific Board invite Earth Scientists from all over the world to participate in this exciting project.

The Editorial Board

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