

Interactive comment on “Joint Editorial “On the future of journal publications in hydrology”” by G. Blöschl et al.

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h.h.g.savenije@tudelft.nl

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The joint editorial has triggered substantial discussion in HESSD, kicked off by Axel Bronstert who criticized the "avalanche" of papers that are produced and the perversity of the performance measures that are commonly used. He called for a regulating mechanism and a change of the publication culture, which seems 'overheated'. Till Franke and Maik Heistermann raised the issue of providing benefits to reviewers, and pleaded for the abolition of anonymity. Erwin Zehe, Hoshin Gupta and Praveen Kumar underlined these concerns and made interesting suggestions for changing the publication culture.

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We are very happy with the expression of all these ideas and opinions and suggest that the discussion will be followed up by the hydrological communities and their editorial boards. It is probably a good idea to set up a working group to evaluate the issues raised and to come up with suggestions for the hydrological community to improve our publication culture.

The lively discussion in HESSD demonstrates that problems are widely felt. The joint editorial has been a valuable means to kick off a discussion, but it would be good if the discussion would also lead to action. We suggest that hydrological associations (IAHS, EGU and AGU) set up a working group to broaden the discussion and hopefully come up with concrete ideas to improve the publication culture.

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