

GEOSTANDARDS AND GEOANALYTICAL RESEARCH

Official Journal of the International Association of Geoanalysts

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PART 1: Scope of Journal and editorial policy

Aim of Journal

'**Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research**' is an international journal dedicated to advancing the science of reference materials, analytical techniques and data quality relevant to the chemical analysis of geological and environmental samples. Papers are accepted for publication following peer review.

Scope

Papers accepted for publication will fall into one of the following categories:

(a) **Original research papers** that make a significant contribution to advancing scientific knowledge in any of the following fields:

1. Developments in analytical techniques including methods suitable for the bulk, isotopic or microprobe analysis of geological and environmental samples.
2. The results of studies of geological and environmental reference materials and analytical methods.
3. Developments in the statistical analysis of reference material, and other geoanalytical or environmental data, including aspects supporting the concept of 'fitness for purpose'.

(b) **Data compilations** that represent the results of:

1. New collaborative studies on analytical methods.
2. New certification studies on reference samples.
3. New results from proficiency testing trials of laboratories.
4. Revisions of previously published reference material data that demonstrate a significant improvement in the quality of specified reference values or present values for additional constituents.
5. Revisions of previously published reference material data that extends the use of the reference material to new areas of application (e.g. to microanalysis or speciation studies).

Compilations must be accompanied by a careful evaluation of data to demonstrate an improvement compared with previously published data. In particular, compilations of previously published data must demonstrate that there is a statistically significant difference between new and previous compiled values with evidence that the new compiled value is a better estimate of the true value. If these criteria cannot be demonstrated, reference should be made to the earlier compilation and source data omitted from the new compilation.

(c) **Contributions to the characterisation of reference materials.** Papers that offer new results for the analysis of reference materials must include:

1. A demonstration that a detailed investigation has been undertaken of technique optimisation, interference effects, matrix corrections and precision by including details in the paper or by reference to a previous publication.
2. An evaluation of bias, an estimation of the uncertainty in individual values presented and a demonstration of the extent to which the results comply with the concept of traceability,.
3. An overall impression that the data presented is state of the art' in relation to the capabilities of contemporary laboratories.

(d) **Reviews and topical commentaries** that discuss progress or topical developments in any area that is of general interest to the geoanalytical community. Authors considering offering such contributions should first contact the Editors-in-Chief.

Refereeing policy

To maintain the highest standards, all manuscripts offered for publication will normally be reviewed by two independent referees who will be asked to judge the paper by the criteria set out above. The comments and recommendations of the referees will be reviewed by the Editors-in-Chief who will decide whether or not to accept the paper for publication. The decision of the Editors-in-Chief in judging the merit of a contribution is regarded as final. The Journal is committed to as rapid a possible publication schedule of high quality contributions. Every effort will be made to minimise delays.

Submission requirements

Manuscripts (the original and two copies) should be sent to either (1) one of the Editors-in-Chief or (2) the Publication Office, CRPG, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy. In addition to conforming to the above criteria, manuscripts must comply with the details of style and format given in Part 2 of this guide.

Submission of an electronic version of the manuscript on disc (see Technical requirements in Part 3 of this guide) is requested with the revised manuscript, after preliminary editorial acceptance of the paper. To ensure maximum dissemination of information, the recommended language of contributions is English. As an alternative, papers in French or German will be accepted.

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PART 2: Style and format requirements

Please read carefully and adhere strictly to these instructions to ensure that the review and publication of your paper is as quick and efficient as possible

Preparation of Manuscripts

Authors should study a recent issue of **Geostandards Newsletter/Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research** to ensure that papers correspond in format and style with the Journal issues after Volume 21 (June 1997) [[Click here for an example layout](#)]. Notwithstanding the formatting constraints given here, authors are encouraged to present the work as they would like to see it published.

Papers should be typed on one side of A4 (or US letter or equivalent size), with sufficient margins on either side, and all pages numbered sequentially. The lines should be double spaced, in a single, left justified, column, without a double space character after a full stop. A blank line should follow all titles, sections and paragraphs, without the use of tabs. The approximate position for insertion of tables and figures should be marked in the margin. Special characters, chemical formulae or mathematical equations should be written clearly. To facilitate the distinguishing of accents and punctuation marks etc., lower case typescript should be used for preparation of the entire manuscript, using capitals only when necessary (e.g., at the beginning of a new sentence or the first letter of proper names). Footnotes should be avoided if at all possible. Spelling should follow the conventions of British English.

Presentation of text

The text should be arranged as follows:

Title page:

- Title
- Authors, name(s), preceded by first name in full and initials for further names.
- Complete address(es) of the author(s), together with e-mail address(es) for inclusion on published title page.
- Current phone, telex or fax numbers for ease of communication.
- Keywords (to be verified by reviewers). Authors should include on the title page up to five keywords which best represent the scope of the paper.

Abstract: Summarise briefly the work undertaken and the principal conclusions in the language of the text, without abbreviations and reference citations. French-speaking authors are also requested to submit the French version if possible.

The main body of the paper:

Introduction: Summarise work already undertaken in the field of study by other authors as well as the current authors to justify undertaking the present work. Summarise the principal scientific aims of the present paper. The introduction should demonstrate that the authors are fully aware of related work and show that the work to be presented in the paper represents a novel and previously unpublished contribution to science.

Experimental: Give details of the work undertaken by the authors by reference to previous published work or give sufficient detail so that a competent independent investigator could repeat the experimental work. The experimental section should be written in the past tense (being a report of work already undertaken).

Results/discussions: Present the principal results of the work and their interpretation and wider scientific significance, with appropriate literature references.

Conclusions: Summarise briefly the conclusions of the work. This section should not include a further interpretation of results.

Acknowledgements: To individuals and/or organisations that have made a significant contribution to the paper. Personal acknowledgements should precede those of institutions or agencies. Incorporate the acknowledgement section as part of the text, not as a footnote.

References: List in alphabetical order in the format described below. Authors are asked to take particular care in checking the accuracy of reference citations. Please note that from Volume 28, the present journal should be referenced as '*Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research*'.

Figures and Tables: Include a separate list of figures and tables with their captions.

Style requirements

Citations in the text

References cited in the text must give the name of the author(s) followed by the date of publication of the paper, using the normal et al., convention if the author list is greater than two. Author citations should be included in parentheses if the citation is not an integral part of the sentence, e.g. "The analytical methods normally employed for the determination of Mo in geological reference materials are spectrophotometry (Terashima 1980a,b, Quin and Brooks 1975, Aruscavage and Campbell 1981), graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry (de Castro et al. 1988, Rowbottom 1991)...". Please note that there is no comma between the author's name and the date, and that et al. (and other Latin words) should be underlined.

Reference list

References should be listed in alphabetical order of first author then chronologically when several references by the same first author are cited. If there are several references by the

same author for a given year, they should be distinguished by appending a, b, c, etc. to the year (e.g., 1998a).

References included in the reference list should include the following details:

1. The family name of the author(s) followed by their initial(s);
2. The year of publication (in parentheses);
3. The full title of the paper;
4. The full name of the journal and the volume number and
5. The numbers of the first and last pages of the paper.

For books, the name of the book should be given, followed by the publisher, place of publication, and the number of pages in the book. For papers in edited volumes, the name(s) of the editor(s) should be given, followed by the title of the volume, its publisher and the numbers of the first and last pages of the paper in question.

References should be typescripted in lower case to ensure that the accents and typographical characters of each language are clearly distinguishable, and should follow the punctuation and style given in the following examples:

Ando A., Mita N. and Terashima S. (1987)

1986 values for fifteen GSJ rock reference samples, "Igneous rock series". Geostandards Newsletter, 11, 159-166.

Govindaraju K. (1989)

1989 compilation of working values and sample description for 272 geostandards. Geostandards Newsletter, 13 (Special Issue), 113pp.

Hinton R.W. (1995)

Ion microprobe analysis in geology. In: Potts P.J., Bowles J.F.W., Reed S.J.B. and Cave M.R. (eds), Microprobe techniques in the Earth sciences. Mineralogical Society (London), 235-289.

Jarvis K.E., Gray A.L. and Houk R.S. (1992)

A handbook of inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry. Blackie (Glasgow), 380pp.

Longerich H. P., Jenner G.A., Fryer B.J. and Jackson S.E. (1990)

Inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometric analysis of geological samples: A critical evaluation based on case studies. Chemical Geology, 83, 105-118.

Figures and illustrations should be submitted separate from the text, in black and white only, each on a separate page, numbered, with author,s name on the back. Since most graphs/charts/diagrams will be reduced for publication to a single column width, authors should ensure that a sufficiently large point size is chosen for symbols, annotation, and weight of lines so that these features will still be distinguishable in the reduced version. Symbols should be identified in the figure caption rather than on the chart. If charts/graphs/diagrams are

to be submitted in non-electronic format, avoid using areas highlighted by stipple (i.e. closely spaced dots), as such ornamentation will not scan successfully during the production process. Care should be taken when choosing the font, to ensure consistency and harmony with the overall appearance of the Journal. Spelling should follow the conventions of British English.

Tables should be submitted separate from the text, numbered and typed on separate sheets with author's name on the back.

Acronyms

The acronyms listed below can be used in manuscripts without definition. Any other acronym used in a paper must be defined in full at the first appearance in the text.

Reference material producers and other organisers

Acronym	Definition
BAS	Bureau of Analysed Samples
BCR	Community Bureau of Reference
CCRMP	Canadian Certified Reference Material Programme
CRPG	Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques
GSJ	Geological Survey of Japan
IAG	International Association of Geoanalysts
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
NBS	National Bureau of Standards
NIST	National Institute for Science and Technology
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Techniques

Acronym	Definition
AAS	atomic absorption spectrometry
ED	energy dispersive
EPMA	electron probe microanalysis
ICP-AES	inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry
ICP-MS	inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry
INAA	instrumental neutron activation analysis
LA-ICP-MS	laser ablation inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry
PIXE	particle (proton) induced X-ray emission
SEM	scanning electron microscopy
SIMS	secondary ion mass spectrometry

TEM	transmission electron microscope
TIMS	thermal ionisation mass spectrometry
XRF	X-ray fluorescence
WD	wavelength dispersive

Analytical terms

Acronym	Definition
CRM	certified reference material
RM	reference material
RSD	relative standard deviation (specify concentration units)
s	standard deviation (finite population)
x-bar	mean (finite population)

Concentration units

- Use % m/m (for per cent by weight) or % m/v or % v/v as appropriate if concentration units are by volume.
- Use $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ (for trace concentration by weight) or $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ (for trace concentration by volume), not ppm).
- Use mol l⁻¹ not M for the molar concentration (e.g. Samples were acidified with HCl (1 mol l⁻¹) and mixed with NaCl solution (5 ml of 10 % m/v).

Terminology

Manuscripts should use SI units throughout and adhere to the latest ISO and IUPAC approved terminology. Contributors should, in particular, use analytical terms and definitions published in 'International vocabulary of basic and general terms in metrology' (VIM) which is published in three parts: Part 1 Basic and general terms (international); Part 2 Vocabulary of legal metrology - fundamental terms and Part 3 Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement, published in 1995 by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

Authors should also consult the following references for guidance:

- The international system of units (6th edition): 1991. Bureau International de Poids et Mesures (Sèvres, France).
- Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (1st edition). ISO: 1993.
- Terms and definitions used in connection with reference materials. ISO Guide 30: 1992.

- Contents of certificates of reference materials. ISO Guide 31: 1981.
- Uses of certified reference materials. ISO Guide 33: 1989.
- Quality system guidelines for the production of reference materials. ISO Guide 34: 1996.

Page charges and reprints

It is the policy of the Journal not to impose page charges for authors unless corrections of more than 10% are introduced after the manuscript has been typeset. The principal author will receive twenty five reprints free of charge. Additional reprints are available, and an order form and price list will be sent with the page proofs.

Copyright

To prevent mis-use of published material and ensure the maximum dissemination of information, authors are asked to transfer copyright to the Publishers, unless this action would contravene Government restrictions placed on an author.

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PART 3: Technical Requirements (for preparation of electronic documents)

In order to simplify typesetting and accelerate publication, it is strongly recommended that an electronic copy of the manuscript text be submitted along with the final version of the typescript (i.e. after editorial acceptance). When preparing documents for submission, authors are requested to comply with the recommendations for style and format given in Part 2 of the Authors, Guide, together with those outlined below.

The disc should be a 3.5 inch diskette in PC or Macintosh format of 0.7 or 1.4 Mb.

Text

The following word processing formats can be accepted: Preferred software: Microsoft Word (5.0 to WORD97/98 recommended). Acceptable alternative: Corel Word Perfect (5.0 to 7.0 recommended).

Please save your text twice, once in the standard data file format offered by your word processing system, and then in either Rich Text Format (RTF) or Text only (ASCII).

Tables

Submit as separate files, not embedded in the main text file. Preferred software: Microsoft Excel (4.0 to 97/98 recommended).

Figures and illustrations

Submit as separate files, not embedded in the main text file. Preferred software: Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop, Claris Draw, Canvas 3.5, Microsoft Excel, Word or Power Point.

File formats: TIFF, EPS, PICT, GIF, JPEG.

Please label your diskette carefully, providing name of the first author, GGR manuscript number, title of article, and software and formatting details.

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