



## What Should Forest Research: Open Access Publish?

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Serving as the first Editor-in-Chief of Forest Research: Open Access, I have frequently been asked by authors, reviewers and colleagues “What are the roles of the journal?” I usually explain to them that Forest Research: Open Access is a journal that publishes the most exciting research on all aspects of forest science and to provide a rapid turn-around time for reviewing, publishing, disseminating the articles freely for research, plus teaching and referencing purposes. The scope of the journal includes all forest ecosystems of the world. It aims to encourage communication between scientists in the fields who share a common interest in forest science and to bridge the gap between forest researchers and land managers in the field to the benefit of both. With the benefits of open access for the public, all articles published in Forest Research: Open Access is freely accessible to everyone with internet connection immediately after publication.

Ideally, Forest Research: Open Access should publish new knowledge, research, practices, ideas, and policies, and should make great efforts to reach more readers worldwide, larger than that of any subscription based journal. I would like to see forest professionals, regardless of sub discipline, feel he or she should read this journal in order to stay current in the field. If Forest Research: Open Access is to achieve this position, the articles must be exciting, important, of broad general interests, and span all areas of forest research. Moreover, the time between submission and publication must be as short as possible.

Forest Research: Open Access welcomes scientific papers reporting significant new knowledge and understanding across a broad spectrum of sustainable forest sciences, including structure, process and dynamics of forest ecosystems, history, biometrics, conservation, disturbances (e.g., wildfire, winds, insects and diseases), diversity, ecology, economics, entomology, genetics, hydrology, management, nutrient cycling, pathology, physiology, silviculture, soils, wood science, recreation, and urban forestry. Theoretical, analytical, experimental, empirical, historical, and descriptive approaches are all appreciated, although preferences should be given to papers with results potentially generalizable to other species, population, community, or ecosystems. The journal particularly encourages submission of papers that integrate natural and social processes, biotic, abiotic and social data across temporal and spatial scales or at appropriately broad scales. The journal also publishes novel techniques, tools and methods for analysis that advance the profession of forestry and of broad interest to forestry scientists, in particular applications of geospatial technologies such as remote sensing, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS). I especially encourage submission of papers that have the strongest interest and value to the journal’s international readership, such as international forestry policy that benefits the society, public education on sustainable forestry, and climate change impacts on forests.

Manuscripts are selected for publication according to the extent and significance of new knowledge or ideas presented, and are evaluated for methodology, technical accuracy, breadth of appeal, clarity, contribution, and merit. Accordingly, submitted manuscripts

should be as comprehensive as possible and should be concise and efficiently written in English. Results that simply provide a description will generally not be considered. Methodological and modeling papers should include applications and provide verification of enhanced performance. Some key features of papers with strong interest include clear connections between the ecology and management of forests, novel ideas or approaches to important challenges in forest science, and studies that address a population of interest beyond the scale of single research sites.

While Forest Research: Open Access welcomes the submission of manuscripts that meet the general criteria of significance and scientific excellence, the papers that Forest Research: Open Access published must have a broad implication for the field, or have a major impact on a sub discipline, including develop new concepts, test ecological theory, and lead to an increased appreciation of the diversity of forest ecosystems. The journal publishes scientific articles that link forest ecology with forest management, applies biological, ecological and social knowledge to the management and conservation of both natural and man-made forests. In considering suitability for publication attention is given to both the originality of contributions and its practical application. Authors should be presenting significant developments and ideas of general interest to forest researchers and management professionals and demonstrate a clear link with forest management. Articles should be readable to a non-specialist in the field being discussed, and topics of limited geographic or research scope should include a discussion of its implications beyond the initial area of research. Authors in the journal have the opportunity to educate and inform practitioners, researchers, policy specialists, and other professionals who benefit from the advancement of scientific knowledge in our profession. Accordingly, I strongly encourage authors to include a section addressing the management and/or policy implications of their research.

Below, I summarize the types of papers we currently recognize in the journal.

**1. Perspectives:** Perspectives are by invitation only, and intended to contain papers that provide synthetic overview, critical commentary, or historical perspective, primarily by senior forest professionals.

**2. Special Features:** We publish Special Issues from time to time

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to provide multifaceted discussion of complex topics. Special Features are intended to address various aspects of a theme that is of potentially broad interest.

**3. Articles:** Articles are the core component of the journal and should report the results of original research. An article reports results of a substantial, completed work.

**4. Reports:** Reports intended for the rapid publication of a timely and significant work. When submitting a Report, authors must explain why its importance or timeliness justifies accelerated processing.

**5. Reviews:** A review is a critical synthesis of information on an important topic of strong current interest. Reviews should be topical and not just an overview of the literature.

**6. Comments:** Comments are papers that point out errors of fact or interpretation in, or otherwise comment on, articles that previously published articles. We accept them for publication if they are brief and of a technical or interpretive nature.