

Planetary Research

A diamond open access journal for planetary science

Launching January 2026



<https://planetary-research.org>

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Academic publishing is broken

There should be no barriers to publishing publicly funded research, and publicly funded research should be free to access.

- Article processing charges for most planetary science journals are exorbitant, ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 €\$ per article.
- Many journals require paying an expensive personal or institutional subscription to access the journal's content.
- Most planetary science journals do very little to promote the work that they publish, even though each journal makes about 1 million €\$ in profit each year.
- Most journals are slow to respond to the needs of their communities.

The screenshot shows a web page for purchasing academic journal subscriptions. At the top, it says "Access Nature and 54 other Nature Portfolio journals" and "Get Nature+, our best-value online-access subscription". The price is listed as "24,99 € / 30 days cancel any time". Below this is a "Learn more" button. To the left, there is a section titled "Buy this article" with links to "Purchase on SpringerLink" and "Instant access to full article PDF", and a "Buy now" button. To the right, there is a section titled "Subscribe to this journal" with the price "133,45 € per year only 11,12 € per issue", and a "Learn more" button. A note at the bottom states: "Prices may be subject to local taxes which are calculated during checkout".

The screenshot shows a web page for logging in and purchasing access to Wiley Online Library content. At the top, there is an information icon and the text "Get access to the full version of this article. View access options below.". Below this is a "Institutional Login" section stating "Université Paris Descartes does not provide access to this content." It includes a "Log in with a different institution" button. To the right is a "Purchase Instant Access" section with three options:

- 48-Hour online access \$12.00
- Online-only access \$20.00
- PDF download and online access \$49.00

Each option has a "Details" dropdown and a "Check out" button. Below these are "Log in with AGU" and "Log in to Wiley Online Library" sections, both with "Log in" buttons. At the bottom, there is a "One account for all your research" section with the text "Wiley Online Library is part of the CONNECT Network".

Solution

Create a new *community run* diamond open access journal.

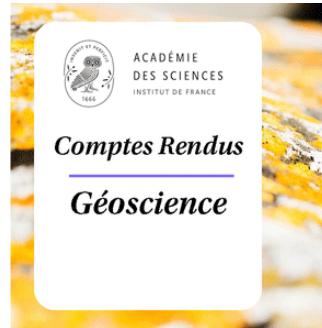
What is diamond open access?

Diamond open access is a publishing model where there are no fees for authors and no fees to access the journal's content. Authors retain the copyright to their work.

Can it be done?



Volcanica (2018)



Comptes Rendus
Géoscience (2020)



Seismica (2022)



Tektonika (2023)



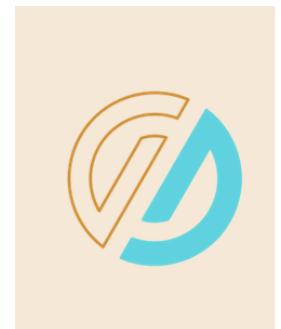
Sedimentologika (2023)



Geomorphica (2024)

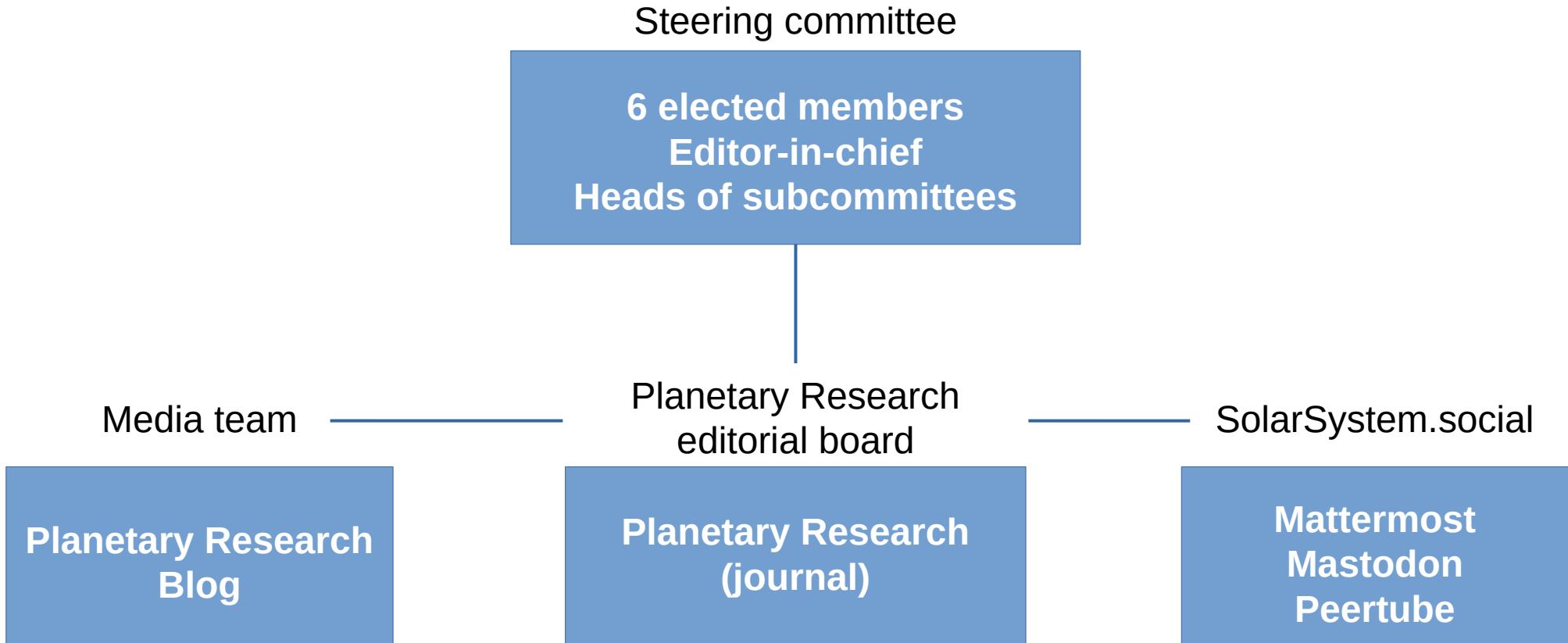


Advances in Geochemistry
and Cosmochemistry (2025)



Geodynamica
(in progress)

Planetary Research Cooperative



Independent and resilient to political and corporate interference.

- Community owned and community run.
- Low bureaucratic overhead.
- International, but registered in France.
- Use of open-source solutions to bring costs down, but also to safeguard against price gauging and being trapped in siloed ecosystems.

Journal Scope

All topics in planetary science, including exoplanets, instrumentation, missions, datasets, and numerical codes.

Article types

Research articles, Letters, Reviews, Commentaries.

Peer review process

- Manuscripts evaluated by an editor and associate editor.
- Two reviewers, with the choice of a single-blind or double-blind review process.
- Potential reviewers selected with the help of a reviewer expertise database (based on Seismica).
- Public review reports for accepted manuscripts that contain the reviews, author responses and editor decisions.
- Promotion of accepted articles on the journal blog.

Who will publish the journal?



OPUS
Open Publishing Services

OPUS - Open Publishing Services, the open access publishing platform of Université Paris Cité, releases scientific books and academic journals spanning the realms of science and technology, health, society, and the humanities. The services offered to scientific communities encompass the complete editorial process, including manuscript evaluation, book production, publication, and indexing. All content featured on OPUS undergoes a peer-review process. [Learn more about OPUS](#)

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

- OPUS provides hosting services using the Open Journal Systems (OJS) journal management software.
- They provide optional copyediting, proofreading and productions services.

How much will it cost?

- Most diamond open access journals in the geosciences report annual operating costs of only 1000 €. The biggest expense is webhosting.
- We propose to outsource the conversion of accepted author latex/docx files to final PDF and HTML formats.
- Manuscript conversion costs about 100 € per article. If we publish 200 articles per year, that comes to 20 k€. The exact cost depends on the ratio of latex and docx files, with latex being cheaper.
- Full copyediting and bibliography formatting services cost extra, but we can probably do most of that ourselves.

How will we pay for it?

Short term

- We will submit 2 separate proposals in France to fund the journal creation and three years of operations.
- Worst case scenario, the founding members will pay for the first year.

Long term

- Option 1: Single payer, such as the European Space Agency.
- Option 2: Create a consortium of 10+ national space agencies and research laboratories to share the costs (~2-3 k€ each per year).
- Option 3: Ask 100 researchers to donate about 250 € per year.

How to get involved

Apply to be an editor!

Editor-in-chief

Responsible for enforcing editorial policies, standardizing peer-review practices, appointing associate editors, and approving special issues.

Editors (about 4)

Responsible for the peer review of manuscripts and making the decision to publish or not. Expected workload is about two new manuscripts per month.

Associate editors (about 10)

Responsible for assisting the editors in various aspects of the peer review process, including contacting reviewers, assessing the reviews, and providing independent assessments.

Deadline to apply is July 1, 2025.

How to get involved

Volunteer for the media and technical teams

Media team

Activities include running a separate website as the journal's blog and managing social media accounts. The journal's blog will publish short, plain-language overviews of research articles and other content that would be of interest to the community.

Technical team

Help keep our web services running! Nextcloud, Wordpress, Mattermost, Mastodon, Peertube, etc.

How to get involved

Join our online forum and email list

Forum

- Join the discussion and help shape the journal's future!
- Help write the journal's policies.
- [Forum invitation link](#) on the website.

Join our forum



Email list

- Send a message to sympa@listes.u-paris.fr
with the subject: subscribe planetary-science.doaj