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From the Editors

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From the Editor - Mike Pollastro

Less than five months ago, we published the initial issue of the Electronic Green Journal (EGJ) over the Internet. Rookies that we were in electronic publishing we made a number of mistakes. Some of the mistakes were recognized by us and conscientious readers alerted us to others. Where possible, those mistakes were corrected, resulting in several changes to that first issue after its initial appearance.

So, we have gotten better and expect to improve more in publishing an electronic journal. Change has been a constant part of the history of the EGJ and its predecessor, the printed Green Library Journal, and those familiar with the Internet know that greater change is inevitable. As the tools for making publications available, accessible and displayable over the Internet improve, we will try to keep up with those changes, albeit, as necessary, in a low-budget fashion.

There is one recent change that makes the EGJ accessible in a new way. Subscriptions are now available. To subscribe and automatically have the issues of the EGJ sent to you by email, send a message to majordomo@uidaho.edu with the following included:

For example, here is the message I would send to subscribe to the EGJ: "subscribe egj mikep@uidaho.edu". That is all you have to do to receive the issues of the EGJ automatically.

We are highly encouraged by the response to our first issue. Requests were received to announce the appearance of the EGJ in printed newsletters and journals, to load the whole EGJ on a server in Brazil, and to point gophers in the Czech Republic and Finland to it. We were pleased to work with those requesters and would be happy to work with others to make the EGJ more visible.

We are also optimistic about the future of this journal. Environmental awareness is prevalent and continues to grow. There is a need for the EGJ and its role, which is to identify, announce, evaluate and review sources of information on the environment. We plan to extend our coverage of sources from what has been devotion almost exclusively to printed publications to include other media which communicate information about the environment, to films, to sound recordings, to computer resources, including the Internet, and to multimedia.

We are proving that a journal, a scholarly venue for communication, can be produced and made available to a worldwide audience at low cost. Librarians are ever conscious of the spiraling costs for publishing and making available the time-honored research journal. We are also aware of the inevitable hopelessness of providing access to the continuing explosion of such publishing. The scholarly world stands at the edge of the abyss that is the future of printed journals. Our hopes are that the EGJ and other blossoming electronic journals show how to make that leap. We think that the heart of scholarly publication can make this transformation also as we work to improve the means for communicating information.

Mike Pollastro, University of Idaho Library

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my high regard to three people without whom the Electronic Green Journal would not be such a success. Cindy Johnson, Associate Director, and Barbara Ham, Graphic Design Manager, from Printing and Design Services at the University of Idaho, designed and produced the printed format of the Green Library Journal and contributed their expertise on the last issue for free. Richard Davis, Manuscript-Archives Librarian, spent long hours editing the first issue of the EGJ. Many thanks for all their hard work.

Maria Anna Jankowska, General Editor