

Thanks to Our Referees of 2007

Dear Referees

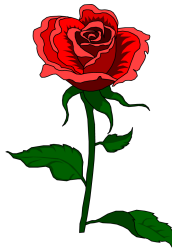
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In this last edition of J Soils Sediments in 2007, we feel the deep need to express our gratitude to you. We cannot list all your names here*, but you are in our minds, and we know your review reports. All of you will receive this issue. By the way, the Internet list 'Referees 2007' refers only to the papers published in print, not to the OnlineFirst papers. So please do not be disappointed if you do not find your name here.

Your review comments reveal that you do not only deal with a manuscript casually, but rather free up your spare time to thoroughly look into the paper and dispute with it. Often enough you edit and annotate the manuscript in addition to the review report. We know what that means.

In many cases it is difficult to follow the thread of the authors. To detect gaps and contradictions in the reasoning requires careful and repeated reading. To perceive if the results presented in the paper are new or just repetitions implies that you are proficient in your subject area and know the international literature. These qualifications represent an immense intellectual property that flows in a review report.

Finally, you have to tailor your insights according to the specific format of the reviewer form in the ESS. (By the way, we have improved this form in so far as we have implemented a 'save' button to avoid the break down of the system,



which happened sometimes in the early days of the ESS. If you wish to edit the manuscript, you can deposit it in the 'Additional file upload', which should be indicated in the reviewer form.)

In addition, you are also aware of the author's psychological strain. It is not your intention to upset the author. We have noticed that you first list the positive aspects before you go into the less positive details. It is your aim to provide the author a guideline of how to deal with your comments in the revised version.

And lastly, it requires decisiveness to decline a paper if needed.

You all command these skills. In turn, your benefit is to get new information, but not all papers are 'located' at the front of research.

You, the Referees, steer the quality of our journals. It is thanks to you that the credit of the journal is high.

In this context we are happy to inform you that the current Impact Factor counts more than 2, even without the last two issues that are not yet evaluated. The Impact Factor 2007 will be published in the mid of 2008. The evaluation of the journal for the Impact Factor 2008 – to be published mid-2009 – begins with the first issue in 2008 which is scheduled for February.

Therefore, we are most grateful to you and hope that you will continue to accompany J Soils Sediments through 2008.

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* they appear in the OnlineEdition of this issue (<http://www.scientificjournals.com/sj/jss/inhalt/Band/7/Ausgabe/6/Jahrgang/2007>), pp. 432.1 ff