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Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

RE: What Earth Scientists Think About NSERC's Star System

I read D. Symons' article (Symons, 1990) a few days after hearing the popular joke about Canadian lobsters that cannot crawl out of an open pail. (... No lid is required because Canadian lobsters that approach the top are pulled down by their fellows).

Let's prove the joke wrong and encourage NSERC—ESC to continue with the star system a bit longer. At the same time, we should urge NSERC that the creativity and productivity of the superstars be monitored in a strict and fair manner. I have little to gain by this suggestion as I am a structural geologist (Anonymous, 1990, table 5) and the level of my Operating Grant is only slightly higher than the national average.

References

Anonymous, 1990, The Distribution of NSERC Funds, and Citation Patterns, 1988-89: Geoscience Canada, v. 17, p. 95.

Symons, D.T.A., 1990, What Earth Scientists Think About NSERC's Star System: Geoscience Canada, v. 17, p. 90-92.

W.M. Schwerdtner
Department of Geology
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3B1

Dear Editor,

We would like to make a suggestion to organizers of symposia and meetings. After attending a symposium in which organizers provided billets for students (Third International Archean Symposium, Australia) (to whom we are grateful), we think it would be valuable to initiate a similar system at conferences in Canada.

The service provided by the Australians was to find a local graduate student (or researcher) who acted as host to a visitor for the duration of the symposium. It provided us with a chance to meet local students and scientists, and reduced travelling expenses which enabled some of us to attend.

We understand that organizing a meeting or symposium is a tremendous effort. Maybe the billeting could be done via the local student geological association. It would be nice to have this service at least for international students.

L. Paul Bédard
Sciences de la Terre
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
Chicoutimi, Québec G7H 2B1

and

Martin Van Kranendonk
Department of Geological Sciences
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario K7N 3N6

Dear Editor,

In the June 1990 issue of *Geoscience Canada* (v. 17), there is an interesting article from an anonymous author concerning citation patterns and the distribution of NSERC funds.

In a discussion of citations, it is stated that the *Science Citation Index* includes "only the first authors of papers". This statement, without qualification, is incorrect.

The *SCI* consists of four separate sections. In the Source Index, every author is indexed and cross referenced to the first author. In the CD-ROM version of the *SCI*, it is possible to search by any author and find the complete bibliographic citation immediately.

In the *Citation Index* proper, the cited papers are listed by first author and, by using the cumulated volumes of the Source Index, one can assemble a bibliography for an individual. At ISI we have an integrated *Citation Index* file which includes entries for all authors and that is why we refer to our studies as "all author" rather than "first author" studies.

Eugene Garfield, Ph.D.
President
Institute for Scientific Information
3501 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Letters, cont'd

Dear Editor,

The Canadian Secretariat for the Ocean Drilling Program would like to bring some upcoming activities of the Ocean Drilling Program to your readers' attention.

The Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) is one of the largest international earth science initiatives to be undertaken in recent years. ODP and its predecessor, the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP), have provided information essential to the understanding of earth processes such as plate tectonics, global circulation and climatic changes. Canada joined ODP in 1985, and 10 Canadian scientists were participants on the six scientific drilling legs completed that year. In October 1988, Canada and Australia formed a consortium to share membership in ODP. The Program presently consists of seven partners: the United States, the Canada/Australia Consortium, the European Science Foundation Consortium, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom.

The centrepiece of ODP is the Canadian-built drillship, the *JOIDES Resolution*, which is officially registered as SEDCO/BP 471. The *JOIDES Resolution*, which began drilling in 1985, is 143 metres long and 21 metres wide, with a derrick that towers more than 61 metres above the waterline. The computer-controlled dynamic positioning system maintains the ship over a specific location while drilling in water depths up to 8235 metres. The ship can suspend as much as 9150 metres of drill pipe to obtain core samples. The heart of this floating scientific research centre is a seven-storey laboratory stack occupying 1200 square metres. Twelve laboratories provide space and equipment for research in sedimentology, paleontology, petrology, geochemistry, paleomagnetics, physical properties, downhole measurements and underway geophysics. X-ray labs and computer, electronics, word processing and photographic services lend technical support.

This coming summer, Leg 139 will be carried out in Middle Valley in the Juan de Fuca ridge off the British Columbia coast to investigate sedimented ridges. Sediment-covered oceanic ridges, although relatively rare, provide ODP with a unique opportunity to investigate a number of fundamental geologic processes, including hydrothermal circulation, sulphide metallogenesis and crustal formation. Regionally continuous, relatively impermeable, sediment cover over "zero-age" crust limits the recharge and discharge of hydrothermal fluids, and conductively insulates the underlying crust. Where discharge of fluids does occur, very large hydrothermal sulphide deposits can be produced. The sediments may preserve a relatively continuous stratigraphic record of magmatic, tectonic and thermal events, providing clues to the spatial and temporal variability of these processes. While Leg 139 will provide information about all of these processes, the program will focus on a three-dimensional characterization of the fluid flow and geochemical fluxes within an active hydrothermal system of sedimented rift.

Leg 139 will take place from July 10 to September 11, 1991, after which the *JOIDES Resolution* will make a port call in Victoria, British Columbia. A number of events have been planned for this visit, including ship tours, lectures and a VIP dinner. We hope that as many of your readers as possible will visit the ship at that time.

A complete schedule of events will be published in the May issue of *The Resolution Report*, the newsletter of the Canadian Secretariat for the Ocean Drilling Program. To receive *The Resolution Report*, which is published three times per year, or for more information about ODP, interested parties can contact us at:

Canadian Secretariat for the Ocean Drilling Program
Centre for Earth Resources Research
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 3X5
Telephone: (709) 737-4708
Facsimile: (709) 737-4702
BITNET: ODP@MUN

Stuart W. Deveau
Canadian Secretariat for the Ocean Drilling Program
St. John's, Newfoundland