



No apology is needed for the birth of this journal, but perhaps some explanation is called for in a world of diminishing library budgets. Antarctic science has never been so healthy. The recent marked increase in the number of participating nations has strengthened the range of scientific activities but it is in danger of weakening the routes for the exchange of information. Papers are becoming increasingly dispersed throughout the general literature, minimizing the potential for cross-fertilization between disciplines and making synthesis more difficult. Antarctic science is now not just of national political interest but of global relevance. Major advances in polar science, as in science elsewhere in the world, result increasingly from team efforts in interdisciplinary research with results and conclusions of interest to a wide range of disciplines.

This new journal *Antarctic Science* will provide a focus for these interdisciplinary papers into the 1990s, as well as the more traditional papers from all fields of research. In addition, each issue will contain comment on more general aspects of Antarctic science, a major review of a specific field, book reviews and an up-to-date noticeboard with details of meetings, grey literature and items of general interest to the Antarctic scientific community.

The Editors and their Advisory Board are keen to publish the best papers in Antarctic science, with no page charges or predetermined lengths. This journal will only flourish if the Antarctic scientific community feels that it is both useful and attractive. We need your assistance to establish and develop the journal and we welcome comments on its form and content.

Antarctic science is developing fast.

Antarctic Science will provide a new focus for this.

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