



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

<http://www.semineral.es/websem/>

THE SEM-CAT STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The SEM-CAT is a geology students association based in Catalonia (Spain) that is part of the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía, itself an organization that includes not only mineralogists but also crystallographers, petrologists, and geochemists. The SEM-CAT was founded in 2018 by PhD students of the Geology Department of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (i.e., the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, UAB).

The purpose of founding this geology students association was to create a regional community based at the UAB's Geology Department in order to have a forum for broadening the geologic knowledge of its members and to contribute to the diffusion of geology. We achieved great success during the first year with the affiliation of 18 members, comprising graduate students (filling the leading roles) and undergraduate students, all under the supervision of senior researchers.

To date, the SEM-CAT has organized conferences with invited guests, workshops on themes of interest for the academic community, and organized fieldtrips led by specialists in the field areas. On top of that, the SEM-CAT has been involved in education and outreach projects, including the Earth Science Olympics. The SEM-CAT helped with the organization and execution of the Earth Science Olympics regional phase in the UAB.

From our experience, the presence of this kind of association in other geology departments would academically benefit those departments and may serve as a liaison between institutions. The success and continuation of such associations relies on student participation and involvement. A key point is that students should lead the projects and organise at the executive level.

The 2nd Young Researchers Conference of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM)



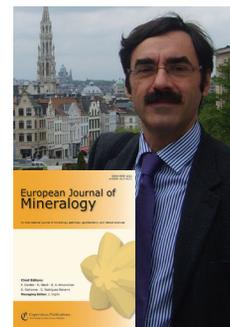
The SEM's 2nd Young Researchers Conference was organized by SEM-CAT. Considering the current pandemic situation regarding COVID-19, it had to be postponed from June 2020 to March 2021 and be rethought as an online event. A total of 30 contributions plus 3 invited talks were submitted and presented within a 3-day afternoon-only conference from 22 to 24 March. The participants ranged from undergraduate to early graduate students and included researchers from Spanish universities and other research institutions. All the contributions will be published in volume 25 of the *MACLA* journal, edited by the SEM.

Gerard Casado and Norbert Caldera
Chair and Secretary of SEM-CAT Students Association

EDITORIAL

Do You Know the True Cost of Your Last Publication?

The *European Journal of Mineralogy (EJM)* was transformed into a gold open access journal on January 2020. It was a major milestone for the journal, and the transformation was a success. As the managing editor of the journal, I would like to revisit this major event and explain the strategy that the journal is pursuing. At the *EJM*, we fully support an open access policy. Everyone should have free access to scientific publications. Any research project starts by a review and compilation of the relevant literature: free and timely access to scientific publications is the only way to fulfill this first step in new research fairly.



The *EJM* has chosen the gold open access model. We believe this is a good way to ensure a successful transition to deliver the goal mentioned above. It is also the best way of ensuring the full transparency to authors of publication costs, which is not always the case with other publication models (e.g., hybrid models). These goals are undoubtedly demanding. Introducing article processing charges (APCs) during the early stages of publication requires all of us to rethink the way costs of publications are supported. It is a revolution for many of the scientific actors, and we are aware that it may be very difficult for some. To address these challenges, the four European learned society owners of the *EJM* took a series of fundamental strategic steps. To ensure a high quality of publishing at a very reasonable price, it was decided to associate with the publisher Copernicus. Copernicus is a reputable publisher, publishing only open access journals since 2001, and offers very moderate APCs. In addition, and to smooth the transition process, in 2020 and 2021 the price paid by authors was/is only €50 per page (€40 to members of the founding societies). The value per page is below production cost, but the societies intentionally and actively wanted to help authors during this transition period. We expect that the nominal cost will be adjusted progressively in the coming years. The learned societies have also launched specific APC waiver programs to help some authors who have difficulties in paying the full rates.

The change at the *EJM* is not yet complete. We still have to transform the volumes published before 2020 into an open access format. This will be implemented as soon as the generated APCs can fully cover the running cost of the journal. Once all *EJM* volumes are in open access form, the cost of a paper published in *EJM* will be fully transparent to authors, institutions, and tax-payers. It will correspond exactly to the APCs paid, which was never the case under the previous hybrid system. This represents something of a revolution compared to past models.

It is my genuine belief that learned societies that are associated with responsible publishers will play a major role in the regulation of the cost of publications by competing with more profit-oriented publishers (both former hybrid and new fully open access ones). Gold open access offers this opportunity to learned societies. We must be ready to assume this leading role, and I am fully committed, with your support, to steer the *EJM* in this direction. We hope that other societies will follow suit by transforming their hybrid journals to fully open access and have them published by the same type of publisher as ours.

With respect to publishing, publication costs are an important factor for learned societies but certainly not the only publishing topic in need of discussion. I look forward to addressing other publishing-based topics in my next editorial. Stay tuned!

J. Ingrin