

05/12/2025 - Publishing GER: Deciding where to submit manuscripts and addressing implications for writing

Purpose

This session provided guidance on selecting appropriate journals for publishing Geoscience Education Research (GER).

1. Considerations for choosing a journal

- Scope and mission: Ensure alignment between the article and the journal's aims, rather than focusing solely on prestige or impact factor.
- Audience: Consider whether the journal reaches your intended readers (e.g., educators, scientists, interdisciplinary researchers).
- Experience with peer review: Seek journals with constructive and supportive review processes.
- Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods: Be mindful of how qualitative research is received. Journals may require more methodological explanation if unfamiliar with these approaches.

2. Explaining research to different audiences

- Tailor explanations when discussing work in different departmental contexts (e.g., geology vs. education).
- Use thoughtful language in cover letters to defend methodological rigor, especially with small qualitative sample sizes.

3. Interdisciplinary and collaborative work

- Publishing interdisciplinary research can be challenging but rewarding. Collaborations with those trained in psychology or social sciences can help.
- Co-authoring can also strengthen the methodological framing and interpretation.

4. Tools and Tips

- Look at journals cited in your own references for submission ideas.
- Sign up as a reviewer with specified keywords to share your expertise and engage with the field.
- Use GenAI tools to draft cohesive narratives about your publication decisions and research portfolio.
- A wide range of journals were mentioned, with publishing goals including:

Journal Name	Why Publish There
<i>Journal of Geoscience Education</i>	To reach geoscience education researchers and practitioners
<i>Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Science Education Research</i>	To reach interdisciplinary science education researchers

<i>Frontiers in Education</i>	General education research and interdisciplinary visibility
<i>CBE: Life Sciences Education</i>	Reaches life science educators; good for interdisciplinary topics like ecology or climate
<i>International Journal of STEM Education</i>	High-impact DBER journal with cross-disciplinary audience
<i>International Journal of Academic Development</i>	Focus on faculty/curriculum development
<i>To Improve the Academy</i>	Similar faculty and curriculum development audience
<i>Geosphere</i>	Targets geoscientists beyond GER community
<i>PLOS</i>	Open access; broad scientific audience
<i>International Journal of Inclusive Education</i>	Focus on inclusive education, disability studies; long review times but supportive
<i>Journal for STEM Education Research</i>	DBER-focused, well-read across STEM education fields
<i>Journal of Geography in Higher Education</i>	More geoscientists, especially those working in higher education contexts
<i>Journal of College Science Teaching</i>	Broad college-level audience; limited reach due to paywall
<i>In the Trenches</i>	Practitioner-oriented; faster publication; not fully peer reviewed
<i>Journal of Environmental Education</i>	Covers formal and informal environmental education, preK–20
<i>Communications: Earth and Environment</i>	Nature journal with open access; accepts significant education-focused work in Earth systems
<i>Science Communication</i>	Reaches informal and non-formal education researchers
<i>Journal of Higher Education</i>	Traditional higher ed scholarship audience
<i>Environmental Education Research</i>	Strong international audience; sustainability focus

<i>Teaching and Learning Inquiry</i>	SoTL and professional development with disciplinary breadth
<i>Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning</i>	Broad SoTL focus
<i>Visitor Studies</i>	For informal education, especially museum/exhibit studies
<i>Journal of Geoethics</i>	Ethics in geosciences, including education and societal impact
<i>International Review of Qualitative Research</i>	Qualitative-focused; no need to justify methodology extensively
<i>International Journal of Qualitative Methods</i>	Similar to above; methodologically aligned for qualitative studies
<i>Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society</i>	Accepts education articles focused on atmospheric science
<i>Oceanography</i>	Has an education section; wide readership in marine sciences

5. Other considerations

- Qualitative research review expertise: Some journals may lack appropriate reviewers. Suggested strategy: recommend expert reviewers in your cover letter.
- Word Limits: Be aware of and plan for limitations in article length.