



# The Second Nordic Summer School in Geographic Information Science

11 - 15 June 2007 • Gävle • Sweden

## **Writing and publishing**

### **David Martin**

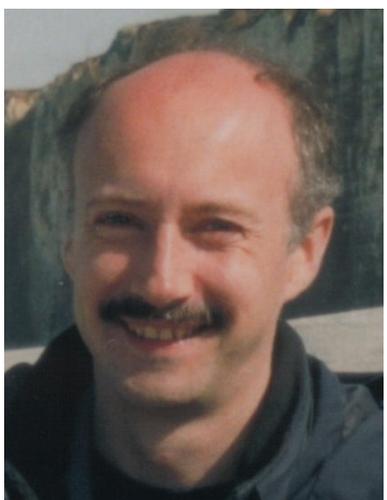


# Scientific writing

- About myself
- Why publish?
- Is my work publishable/where?
- Writing style
- The publication process
- Guiding principles

# About myself

- David Martin, University of Southampton, UK
  - *Geographic Information Systems: Socioeconomic Applications* (Routledge, Second edition 1996).
- Associate Editor/Editorial Board member:
  - *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems; Transactions in GIS; Journal of the Royal Statistical Society A; Transactions of the Royal Institute of British Geographers*





# Why publish?

- Add to academic knowledge base
  - Develop new theoretical perspective
  - Introduce new technology or methodology
  - Present case study applications
  - Review the status of a particular field
- Rarely for profit!
- Significantly for academic career development, although cultures vary



# Is my work publishable/where?

- Do you have something to say?
- Is it original?
- Identifying the right publication target
  - Journal papers
  - Chapters in edited books
  - Monographs
  - Textbooks
  - Working papers/self-publication
  - (Not really considering conference papers)



# Publication types

- Peer-reviewed international journal paper
- Book chapters: usually by invitation or specific call
- Monographs: entire authored work on single theme – major contribution to knowledge
- Textbook: structured presentation of knowledge aimed at specific student audience



# Writing style 1

- **Importance of structure!**
- Introduction
- Literature review and expert referencing
- Methods clearly stated
- Case study/presentation or results
- Discussion as appropriate
- Conclusion



## Writing style 2

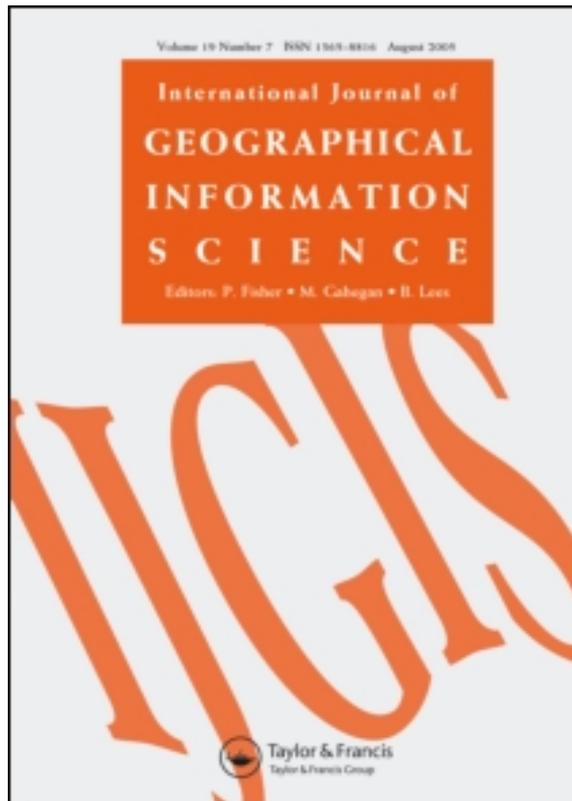
- Excellent spelling, grammar and language
- Clearly states and justifies its own place in the literature
- Appropriate level of technical content
- High quality figures and diagrams
- Consider supporting content online
- **Know what they are looking for...**



## Which journal?

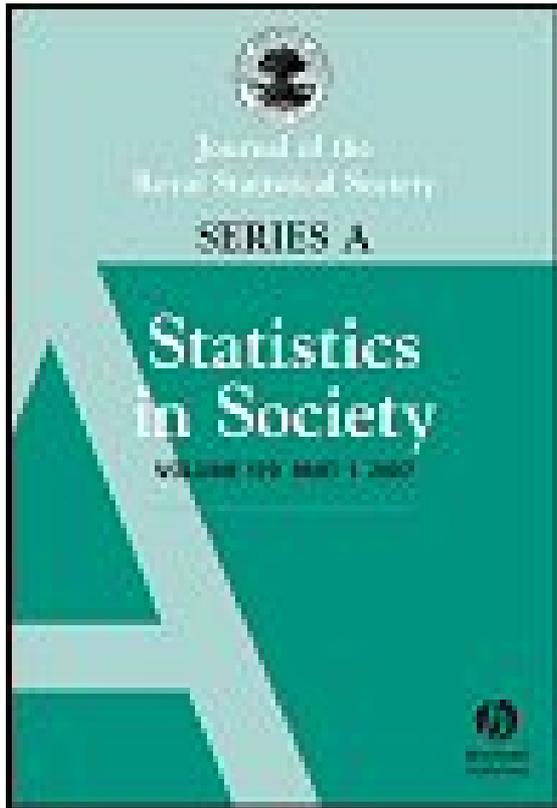
- Take care to find relevant target journal
  - General/specialist?
  - Technical/theoretical?
  - Interested in reviews? Application studies?
- Examine coverage carefully
- Consider citation rankings, status...
- See what has recently been published
- Is your work of interest to the same readership?

# Example: IJGIS



The aim of this interdisciplinary and international journal is to provide a forum for the exchange of original ideas, techniques, approaches and experiences in the rapidly growing field of geographical information systems (GIS). It is intended to interest those who design, implement and use systems for monitoring, planning and policy-making. Published research covers applications of GIS in natural resources, social systems and the built environment, and developments in computer science, cartography, surveying, geography and engineering in both developed and developing countries.

# Example: JRSS-A



*Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A (Statistics in Society)*, publishes papers that demonstrate how statistical thinking, design and analyses play a vital role in all walks of life and benefit society in general. There is no restriction on subject matter. For example, medicine, business and commerce, industry, economics and finance, education and teaching, physical and biomedical sciences, the environment, the law, government and politics, demography, psychology, sociology and sport, all fall within its remit.

The journal's emphasis is on clearly written quantitative approaches to problems in the real world rather than the exposition of technical detail. Of particular interest are papers on topical or contentious statistical issues, papers which give reviews or exposés of current statistical concerns and papers contributing to our understanding of important substantive questions. Such papers are reviewed and published more rapidly. Historical, professional and biographical contributions are also published, as are discussions of methods of data collection and of ethical issues.



# The journal publication process

- Prepare paper
- Submit paper
- Independent review
- Decision letter from editor
  - Accept/Revise/Reject
- Final acceptance letter
- Proof checking
- Publication



# Instructions for authors (IJGIS)

## 1. Introduction

It is essential that authors prepare their manuscripts according to established specifications. Failure to follow them may result in your paper being delayed and the effectiveness of the search capabilities offered by electronic delivery will depend upon the care and attention given by authors in preparing their manuscripts. Therefore, contributors are strongly encouraged to read these instructions carefully before preparing a manuscript for submission, and to check the manuscript for compliance with these notes before submitting it for consideration.

## 2. Submitting a Paper to International Journal of Geographical Information Science

Papers for consideration should be sent to the [International Journal of Geographical Information Science's Manuscript Central](#) to facilitate rapid accessibility of your work to the readers. New users should first create an account. Once a user is logged onto Manuscript Central, submissions should be made via the Author Centre. If you have any queries about how Manuscript Central works then please refer to the link to the 'Get Help Now' area at the top right of all Manuscript Central webpages.

On submission, you will be asked to specify your submitting country as part of the information associated with your account, which will determine which editor will run the peer-review of your paper.

Submissions should use a standard word processing program, such as MSWORD or be in Portable Document Format (PDF).

## 3. General Guidelines

*International Journal of Geographical Information Science* considers all manuscripts on the strict condition that they have not been submitted only to the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, that they have not been published already or are under consideration for publication or in press elsewhere. Authors who fail to adhere to this condition will be charged with a breach of the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* incurs and their papers will not be published. Contributions to the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* must report original research and will be subjected to review by the



# Instructions for authors

- Submission instructions
- Layout instructions
  - e.g. not placing authorship in main document
- Abstracts, keywords, referencing, length
- Journal house style
- Copyright conditions



## Play the game fairly

- Get maximum input from colleagues and others before submission
- Don't submit the same paper to more than one place/don't attempt to publish significantly overlapping material
- Always cite all sources and be aware of copyright in diagrams, data, software
- **Reviewers will notice!**



# Author guidelines

- Always follow the guidance for authors
- Editors will sometimes automatically reject papers that do not follow the guidelines without further consideration
- Be especially clear to follow subject, length and style guidance
- Many papers fail on these basics, regardless of content



# The journal publication process

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- Decision letter from editor
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- Final acceptance letter
- Proof checking
- Publication

**NB could easily take 18 months**



# IJGIS review criteria 1

## **PART 1 -- Information to be returned to the authors:**

1. Is the paper written in grammatic and clear English?
2. Is the writing style succinct and appropriate to the work?
3. Is the title appropriate to the content?
4. Does the summary accurately describe the content of the paper?
5. Is the length of the paper appropriate to the content?
6. Are the conclusions borne out by the reported results?
7. Are tables and figures necessary and appropriate?
8. If the paper includes colour figures are they all necessary?



## IJGIS review criteria 2

**Please use the following codes in answering questions 9 - 13:**

9 Outstanding ...5 Neutral (Of borderline merit)....1 Unacceptable  
(I will be embarrassed to see this paper in IJGIS)

9. Originality i.e. novelty, degree of innovation

10. Technical quality i.e. thoroughness, completeness

11. Relevance to IJGIS i.e. interest to the GIS community

12. Presentation i.e. clarity, readability

13. OVERALL RATING

14. Referee's confidence on the rating [**L**(OW)/**A**(VG)/**H**(IGH)]

15. A short summary of the rationale for your recommendation  
(Maximum 5 lines):



## IJGIS review criteria 3

**16. Detailed comments to authors (add additional pages as necessary):**

**PART 2- Information NOT to be shown to the authors:**

In other words, reviewers may write comments to the author that you do not get to see, in addition to comments written specifically for you.



# JRSS-A review criteria 1

1. I recommend that this paper be  
(a) accepted in substantially its present form... (d) rejected in its present form but a substantial revision invited
2. Might the paper be suitable for reading at an Ordinary Meeting of the Society?
3. If it is mainly a presentation of new statistical material, is this expertly and critically evaluated?
4. If it is mainly a comment on, or development from, a previously published paper, do the points being made have a more general application? Should the author(s) of the original work be given the opportunity to reply?
5. If it is a review paper, is a review of this topic necessary?



## JRSS-A review criteria 2

6. Is the exposition lucid and the mathematics, if any, accompanied by a suitable commentary in plain English for the benefit of non-specialists? Do summary and keywords describe the content of the paper adequately for database searches?
7. Does the paper refer adequately to previous work?
8. Could the paper be shortened without detriment (if so, how)?
9. If you recommend publication, please give careful consideration to the number, size and quality of tables. Are there any that can be dispensed with, condensed or replaced by diagrams? Would visual display of data be useful? Could the presentation of any graphics be improved: are they clear and properly labelled or do they contain any matter which should be removed?
10. Please give any additional comments for the associate editor.



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- Publication



# The revision process

- Major/minor
- Address all the reviewers' comments
  - Often incompatible!
- Always include letter to editor explaining point-by-point revisions
- Minor revisions: decision by editor
- Major revisions: back to reviewers



# The journal publication process

- Prepare paper
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- Publication



# Proof-checking

	T	R	A	N	0	5	0	4	Operator: Wang Yong		Dispatch: 02.16.06	PE: Anna Winsley
	Journal Name			Manuscript No.			Proofreader: Liang Lifan				No. of Pages: 13	Copy-editor:

## Last of the censuses? The future of small area population data

David Martin

This paper assesses future population data collection in the UK with reference to international trends, which suggest a retreat from census-taking in the face of enumeration challenges and the emergence of potential administrative sources. Some of the greatest strengths and weaknesses of contemporary censuses are explicitly geographical in nature. Key requirements of a geographical base for the transition from censuses to administrative sources are examined and the need for research on appropriate definitions and address-level georeferencing identified. The design of future output geographies is considered and an assessment undertaken of the possibility of maintaining current output geography as basis for neighbourhood-level research.

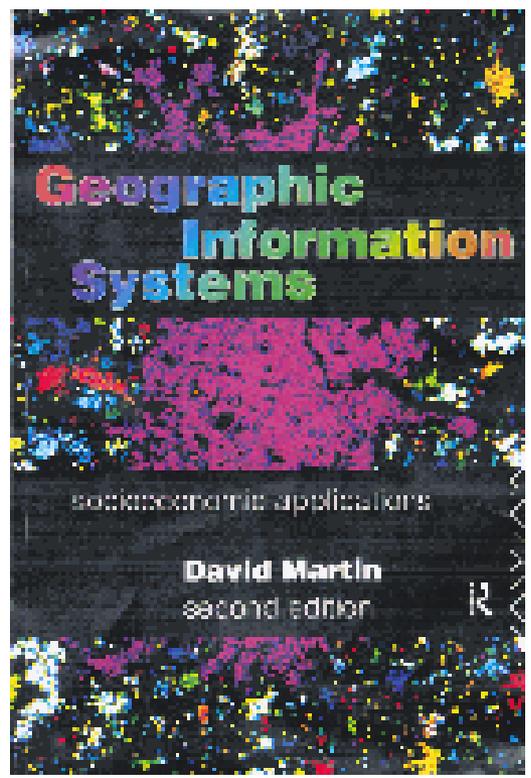
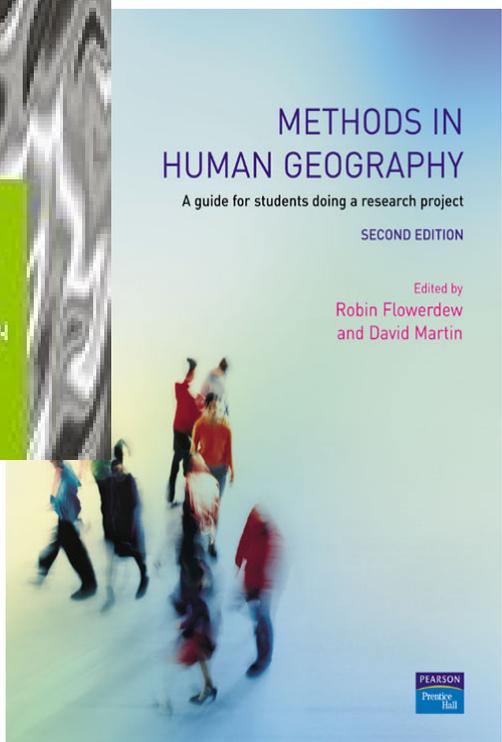
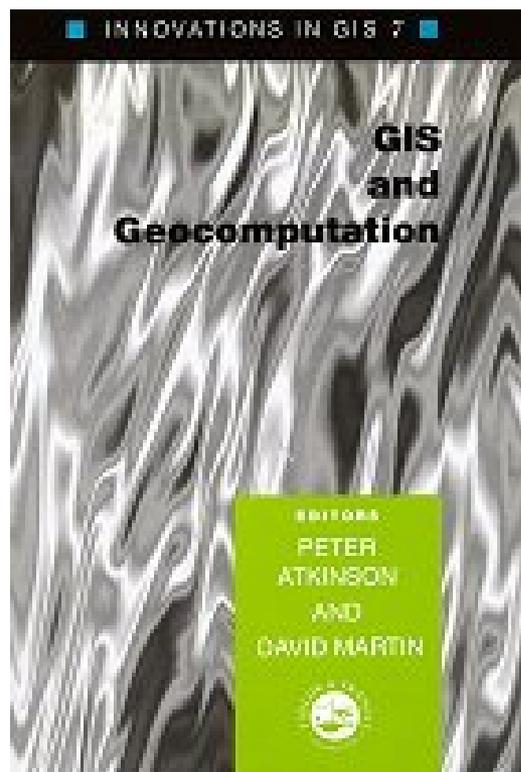
**key words** UK population census comparative review enumeration geographical referencing output area



# Publication

- Always check proofs very carefully but don't use them for further revisions
- Don't be surprised if you are asked to act as a reviewer!
- **Open Access Journals: much faster turnaround and ready access. Mostly will not be the same prestige, but increasing every year. Some charges to author.**

# Edited books and monographs





## Edited books

- Editor does the work in finding a publisher, agreeing terms, writing case
- Commercial publisher will be most interested in market, competition, coverage
- Editor does all the work formatting, indexing, proofing (or pays for it against % royalties!)
- One-off fee to chapter authors



# Monographs

- Author does the work in finding a publisher, agreeing terms, writing case
- European tradition of institutional publication – simpler process
- Commercial publisher will be most interested in market, competition, coverage
- Author does all the work formatting, indexing, proofing (or pays for it against % royalties!)



# Guiding principles

- Do high quality work!
- Identify the right outlet
- Always follow the guidance
- Get maximum review and input prior to submission
- Play the game fairly
- Don't be disappointed by harsh words