

## INSTRUCTIONS TO BULLETIN AUTHORS

The AAPG *Bulletin* is designed for the dissemination of information on the Geology related to natural resources critical to energy systems, and the associated environmental topics.

Manuscripts are reviewed by at least two referees for technical merit, quality of scientific content, and significance of applications/implications. The AAPG Editor makes the final decision concerning the acceptance or rejection of submitted manuscripts.

### SUBMISSION TYPES

**Articles** are papers of major extent and contain detailed geologic data that support original interpretations or methods. Submitted article length is not to exceed 50 pages, including double-spaced text, figures, and tables.

**E&P Notes** are short, timely, general interest papers focused on current exploration plays and field descriptions useful for practitioners. Length should not exceed 20 pages, including double-spaced text, figures and tables.

**Geologic Notes** are brief, timely, and of general interest. Length should not exceed 20 pages, including double-spaced text, figures and tables.

**Geohorizons** papers focus on current technical methodologies. Length should not exceed 20 pages including double-spaced text, figures and tables.

**Discussions and Replies** pertain to articles published in the AAPG *Bulletin*. They are

brief, to the point, and are not to exceed 6 pages including double-spaced text, figures and tables.

**Memorials** are not to exceed 800 words. Longer text is subject to approval by the AAPG Editor. Contact Andrea Sharrer by email [asharrer@aapg.org](mailto:asharrer@aapg.org) or phone (918) 560-2671 for more information.

### MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

#### Format

Format your manuscript using double-spaced, numbered lines with 12-point size font (Times New Roman preferred), in Microsoft Word document format (.docx), and organized as described below.

Manuscripts must be submitted online through the Aries Editorial Manager® system ([www.editorialmanager.com/BLTN](http://www.editorialmanager.com/BLTN)). Questions about the submission process should be sent to [bulletin@aapg.org](mailto:bulletin@aapg.org).

#### Sections

Organize your manuscript as follows:

- Title • Authors and addresses • Acknowledgments • Abstract • Text • Appendixes • References Cited • Figure captions (separate sheet) • Figures and Tables (separate files from text).

#### Manuscript Parameters

Limit the length of the title to no more than 20 words, and the abstract to no more than 250 words.

Use no more than three levels of headings. Use bold, all caps for primary section headings (e.g., **INTRODUCTION**). Use bold, first letter capitalized of each word for secondary headings (e.g., **Regional**

**Geology**). Use normal font with only the first letter of the first word capitalized for tertiary headings (e.g., Laminated black mudstone facies). Do not number or use bulleted headings.

Use metric units of measure with the English unit equivalent in parentheses or, conversely, English units with metric equivalents in parentheses.

Do not use abbreviations except for units of measure (without periods), e.g., mi, wt%, °C.

Limit the use of acronyms to improve readability. Acronyms should be spelled out followed by the acronyms in parentheses at the first occurrence. Do not capitalize the first letter of the words forming the acronym. Example: scanning electron microscopy (SEM); total organic carbon (TOC). Thereafter, only the acronyms should be used except at the beginning of a sentence where they are spelled out.

Please define all acronyms and nonstandard abbreviations used within figures and tables in each figure caption and table footnote.

Cite figures and tables in numerical order. Spell out Figure, rather than abbreviating as Fig.

Cite all references and include complete information for each citation in the References Cited section.

Follow the North American Stratigraphic Code. See [https://nacs.n.americangeosciences.org/files/nacs\\_code\\_2021.pdf](https://nacs.n.americangeosciences.org/files/nacs_code_2021.pdf).

## **FIGURES**

All figures and tables are submitted as individual files separate from the main manuscript text through the Aries Editorial Manager® system. See the Submission Format section for digital art submission specifications.

Identify all figures sequentially by number as referenced in the text.

Figures must include scales.

Label all axes on graphs.

### **Figure Captions**

Figure captions are submitted as a separate page following the References Cited section. Figure captions should be brief and include any ancillary information not described in the manuscript text.

### **Maps, Cross Sections and Seismic Lines**

Only countries and undisputed country boundaries (including territories) that are formally recognized by the United Nations may appear on maps published in the *Bulletin*. Please visit the following web sites <https://www.un.org/geospatial/mapsgeo/web/services>

Each map should contain a scale bar, north arrow, and a minimum of one set of latitude and longitude coordinate points placed at or near each map corner (4 total) for orientation purposes, except for index maps used solely to generally locate a larger map.

Each cross section and seismic line, as proprietary considerations allow, should be located on a map with the above basic information. The projection and geodetic datum information should be included. Satellite imagery, orthophotos, and similar metric photography should also be treated as

maps. Authors are encouraged to submit, as supplementary documents, their maps originally prepared using the Geographic Information System (GIS) in a widely used geocoded file format (e.g., Arc Info, GEOTIFF).

## **AAPG DATASHARE**

Beyond the figures and tables in the manuscript, the authors may include further data files (e.g., spreadsheets, oversized images, videos, animated images). They will be placed online on the Datashare page. The material will be referenced in the printed article and linked in the online published version.

## **COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS**

The author must obtain permission to use previously published illustrations. Submit a letter of permission from the copyright holder with the manuscript before editing begins. Write to [asharrer@aapg.org](mailto:asharrer@aapg.org) for a form to request permission for AAPG publications.

## **GALLEY PROOF**

Authors of accepted manuscripts will be provided with a galley proof copy for review and approval prior to publication. No content changes are allowed following the author's acceptance of the final galley proof.

## **PAGE CHARGES**

It is AAPG's policy to assess a page charge to help defray the cost of publication. All authors shall be asked to pay a voluntary

charge of \$50 per typeset page for the first 9 pages (\$450 total). An excess page charge of \$75 per page for AAPG member authors, and \$100 per page for nonmembers, will be assessed for each typeset page more than 9 pages.

The exact number of pages in an article cannot be confirmed until shortly before printing. A reasonable estimate is calculated by the number of double-spaced text pages including references (x) divided by 3, plus the number of figures (y) and tables (z) multiplied by 0.6  $[(x/3) + (y+z) * 0.6]$ . Billing will take place after the composition of the paper is complete. No charges are assessed if a submitted manuscript is not published.

In addition to these charges, there may be charges for changes requested in the typeset proofs that alter the text or figures in the accepted manuscript. The AAPG Publications Department staff will determine such charges from the proofs that reflect the changes. It is AAPG's policy to suspend publication privileges of any author who has a past-due account with the association.

## **Hardship Relief**

The page charges do not intend to prevent any author from publishing in the *Bulletin*. AAPG expects all authors with personal, research-grant, or institutional resources to pay, however if authors are unable to pay the full estimated amount, during the resubmission process, choose "Send E-mail" within the submission table for this paper. Select "Author Request for Publication Fee Waiver" from the drop-down menu provided. Then select the "Customize Letter" button.

## COVER IMAGES

The *Bulletin* considers artistic digital illustrations with geologic interest for the cover. Illustrations should be at least 300 ppi resolution; the *Bulletin* cover measures 8 in by 10 ½ in, portrait format. Multiple submissions are welcome.

## REFERENCES STYLE CHECKLIST

References and citations must be complete and accurate.

All references listed in the References Cited Section must be cited in the manuscript.

Names, spellings, and dates between text citations and References Cited must be consistent.

### Text Citations

Do not include citations in the abstract.

Works are cited chronologically first, then alphabetically. Example: (Harvey, 1989, 1992; Allmendinger et al., 1990, Beer et al., 1990; Jordan et al., 1993; Milana, 1994; and Fernandez, 1995).

Initials are used when referencing two or more authors who have the same last name. Example: (E. N. Barbat, 1995; W. F. Barbat, 1995).

Articles or books that have three or more authors or editors are cited with the senior author's name plus "et al." Example: (Barker et al., 1995).

Works by the same author(s) in the same year are cited "1980a, b," not "1980a, 1980b."

A page number must be given when a direct quote is used. Example: (Allmendinger, 1991, p. 1492).

Works accepted for publication, but not yet published, are cited as "in press", without the year. Example: (Jones, in press).

Works accepted for publication in a Special Issue of the *Bulletin* are cited as "this issue" (not volume). Example: Rowan, this issue.

Unpublished references must be cited as personal communications with the date. Example: C. J. Rockfall, 1998, personal communication, and are not listed in References Cited section. Do not abbreviate personal communication, e.g., pers. com.

## REFERENCES CITED FORMAT

### Order

Works are ordered alphabetically by the first author's last name (surname/family name), regardless of the number of authors.

If an author or set of authors has more than one work, order by date from oldest to newest.

### Authors

List the senior author's last name first, followed by initials; thereafter, list initials first followed by the last names of the subsequent author(s). Use a space between author initials. Example: Walter, L. M., A. M. Stueber, and T. J. Huston.

Repeat all author or editor names; do not use em dashes (--) for author names.

List all authors or editors unless the work has more than 10 authors, then list the first author or editor followed by "et al."

## Publication Date

Include the date of publication following a comma after the name of the last author. For manuscripts accepted for publication, but not yet published, use “in press”. Example: Jones, R. B., in press, Fluvial and lacustrine rocks . . .

## Title

Capitalize only the first word and proper nouns in the title. For compound titles, capitalize the first word following the colon.

Use the same punctuation, spelling and capitalization of formal names as used by the author for the title. Do not insert [sic] for original misspellings or other errors.

Designate an abstract with “(abs.)” after the title of the abstract.

## Publisher

Use a colon preceding the name of the publisher.

Spell out all publisher names except for AAPG, SEPM, SPE and GSA. Example: AAPG Bulletin, SEPM Special Publication, SPE Journal.

Do not use “#” or “no.” before the number of a series or APG Search and Discovery articles. Example: AAPG Continuing Education Note Series 15; AAPG Search and Discovery article 41157; AAPG Memoir 15, etc.).

Use an ampersand symbol (&) rather than “and” for the Oil & Gas Journal and place the issue date in parentheses following volume number.

## Order of Information

**Journal Article:** author name(s), year of publication, title of article, name of journal,

volume number, issue number (optional), page numbers. Example: Carstens, H., 1978, Origin of abnormal formation pressures in central North Sea Lower Tertiary clastics: *The Log Analyst*, v. 129, no. 1, p. 24–28.

**Book Article:** author name(s), year of publication, title of article, editor(s) of book, title of book, city of publication, publisher, series and any number, volume number, number of pages. Example: Posamentier, H. W., and P. R. Vail, 1988, Eustatic controls on clastic deposition II—sequence and systems tract models, *in* C. K. Wilgus, B. S. Hastings, C. G. St. C. Kendall, H. W. Posamentier, C. A. Ross, and J. C. Van Wagoner, eds., *Sea-level changes: An integrated approach: SEPM Special Publication 42*, p. 125-154.

**Book:** author or editor name(s), year of publication, title of book, city of publication, publisher, number of pages. Example: Riley, J. P., and R. Chester, 1971, *Introduction to marine chemistry: New York, Academic Press*, 465 p.

Use the abbreviation “2nd ed.” for second edition and “3rd ed.” for third edition following the book title. Example: Tissot, B. P., and D. H. Welte, 1989, *Petroleum formation and occurrence, 2nd ed.*, Berlin, Springer-Verlag, 702 p.

**Map:** author name(s), year of publication, title of work, city of publication, publisher, series and any number, scale, number of sheets. Example: Harris, A. G., L. D. Harris, and J. B. Epstein, 1978, *Oil and gas data from Paleozoic rocks in the Appalachian basin: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Map I-917-E*, scale 1:2,500,000, 4 sheets.

## SUBMISSION FORMATS

### Text and Tables

Microsoft Word (.docx) and Microsoft Excel (.xlsx).

Save tables without rules and borders. Do not create or embed tables (or figures) in the text file. Save each table as a separate file.

### Graphics

Submit graphics in the original TIFF (TIF) or EPS format created from the following supported applications: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, or PowerPoint.

Save graphics files in the EPS format with a Macintosh preview (color preview for color files), when possible. Otherwise, use TIFF (color files as CMYKTIFF). Include native application files.

Avoid saving color graphic files in the TeachText or SimpleText applications.

### Resolution

Save graphics at the recommended minimum resolutions for acceptable quality for printing.

- 1200 dpi for line art
- 300 dpi for gray scale
- 600 dpi for line and gray scale combinations
- 300 dpi for 4-color

### Sizing and Preparation

Submit figures at their final publication size; do not scale figures. Prepare figures at 1, 1.5, or 2-column width.

1 column = 3.25 in/8.25 cm/19.5 picas

1.5 columns = 5 in/12.7 cm/ 30 picas

2 columns = 6.75 in/ 17.1 cm/ 40.5 picas

Figures can also be placed broadside (landscape) on a page. The height of all figures must be less than or equal to 9 in / 23 cm / 54 picas.

### Labeling and Font Usage

Provide labels for all multi-panel figures using uppercase 12-point Helvetica Bold or Arial Bold within parentheses; for example: **(A)**, **(B)**, **(C)**.

Please use the same font for all figures in your manuscript, and use a standard font such as Arial, Helvetica, Times, Symbol, Mathematical Pi, and European Pi.

Do not vary font sizes within a single figure and use the same font size for all figures.

The preferred font size is 8 points; the minimum font size is 6 points.

Do not use fonts to create patterns within figures.

File compression is encouraged. Use either Winzip (<https://www.winzip.com>) or Stuffit (<https://Stuffit.com>). Do not use JPEG or LZW compression.

## GRAPHICS NOTES AND TIPS

Submit graphics as separate files through the Aries Editorial Manager® system ([www.editorialmanager.com/BLTN](http://www.editorialmanager.com/BLTN)). Do not embed figures, or tables within the text. Do not include editing remarks within the text to denote desired location of the figure or table within the manuscript. Figure and table placement will be determined by the Editing Group at the gally proof stage.

All graphic files are converted to TIFF, or EPS format for publication in the *Bulletin*. Once converted, text and patterns may

change or disappear. Fonts may be substituted, and patterns may not match the original after conversion due to differences in the software availability of patterns for printing. During the galley proof review stage, authors must closely examine figures and point out any discrepancies that may change the figure's meaning. We may ask for a new figure file if the quality of the original is poor.

If you have any questions about how to submit your digital text and graphics, contact us via email: [bulletin@aapg.org](mailto:bulletin@aapg.org).

Revised 9/2025