

JGR Solid Earth

EDITORIAL

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Key Point:

- An announcement that Plain Language Summaries will be required for all articles published in the journal

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Plain Language Summary Required for Submission to *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*

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Abstract The editors of *JGR: Solid Earth* announce that Plain Language Summaries will be required for all manuscripts.

Plain Language Summary All manuscripts published in *JGR-Solid Earth* will include a Plain Language Summary.

The number of papers published each year in *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth* is increasing, reaching 661 in 2020. This provides readers access to a growing range of exciting scientific results. However, it also makes it more difficult for readers to locate articles relevant to their interests. Abstracts are often laden with jargon, sometimes lack the broader context, and generally focus on very specific results. To provide an easier way to access articles for nonspecialists, and provide a clear statement of the broader implications of the paper, the editorial board of *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth* has decided to require a Plain Language Summary be provided for every paper. As its name implies, these summaries should be written with as little jargon or field-specific assumptions as possible. The summaries will include an accessible summary of the work, its general context and the major questions addressed. In addition, they will address the broader importance of the work, highlighting how it advances our understanding of the Solid Earth. Plain Language Summaries do not replace the standard abstract, nor the Key Points, but rather provide an accessible summary of the work, allowing a broad audience to understand its findings. We are aware that Plain Language Summaries constitute additional work for the authors, but the summaries will significantly increase the readability and accessibility of papers. Beyond scientists, the target audience includes journalists, science writers, policymakers, and industrialists.

Plain Language Summaries are already required for a number of AGU journals, and *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth* will thus join this collection. More information about Plain Language Summaries can be found on AGU's website:

<https://www.agu.org/Share-and-Advocate/Share/Community/Plain-language-summary>

Data Availability Statement

None.