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PUBLICATION POLICY

Soil Science Society of America
(revised 2 December 1976)

Publication Policy

This policy statement was prepared by the 1963 Organization and Policy Committee of SSSA to provide details not covered in the revised Bylaws of SSSA. The policy includes new policy regarding developments such as the special publication series of SSSA and the new section on letters to the editor in the *SSSA Journal*. The publication policy is intended to provide members of the Society a more complete statement of policy than has been available heretofore and to answer most questions about policy and procedures for different kinds of subject matter and publications. The policy is subject to change at will by the Board of Directors within the broad limits set by the Bylaws.

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C. A. BLACK, *Chairman, SSSA
Organization & Policy Comm. 1963*

I. General Policy

1. Publications of the Soil Science Society of America are under the supervision of the editorial board, which consists of (a) the editor-in-chief, (b) the managing editor, (c) enough associate editors to carry out editorial duties promptly and to provide each division with at least one associate editor, (d) editors appointed for temporary service on particular publications, and (e) the executive secretary as an ex officio member.

2. Except as specified below, at least one author of each contribution submitted for publication must hold active, emeritus, or graduate-student membership in the Soil Science Society of America, the Crop Science Society of America, or the American Society of Agronomy.

3. Costs of publication are met by dues and other Society income and by page and production charges to authors or their sponsoring organizations as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. Publication charges to authors may be waived upon application to the President when scientific merit and financial hardship may be demonstrated. Society members must be given a one-year notice before a change in operating procedure for page and production charges can be put into effect.

4. All material intended for publication by the Society should be written in English and should be sent to the editor-in-chief or, for publications other than the *SSSA Journal*, to a special editor if one is appointed by the President for the publication in question.

5. In matters of review, revision, and approval of manuscripts, the editorial board corresponds directly with the authors.

6. The right to publish papers based on oral presentations made

at meetings of the Society and papers that have been received by the editor-in-chief or a special editor, as specified in 1-4, is reserved by the Society. At any time, however, an author may request the release of his paper from the editor-in-chief. Such release, if granted, will not permit publication of the paper elsewhere before the oral presentation. Papers based on oral presentations are released automatically for publication by the American Society of Agronomy or the Crop Science Society of America upon notification of the editor-in-chief.

II. Procedures and Regulations for Different Types of Contributions

A. Original Research Findings

1. "Original research findings" are interpreted to mean the outcome of scholarly inquiry, investigation, or experimentation having as an objective the revision of existing concepts, the development of new concepts, or the development of new or improved techniques in some phase of soil science.

2. The *SSSA Journal* is the normal channel for the publication of papers reporting original research findings. Papers having a length of two printed pages or less may be submitted as Notes; these may be published early, without waiting their turn, if requested by the author and approved by the editorial board. Papers and Notes may be submitted at any time for publication in the *SSSA Journal*, whether given orally at the annual meetings or not.

3. Papers submitted to the *SSSA Journal* may be transferred to one of the other publications of the Soil Science Society of America, the American Society of Agronomy, or the Crop Science Society of America, provided the author requests the transfer or gives written permission for such transfer, provided the subject matter is appropriate for the publication to which the transfer is proposed, said appropriateness to be determined by the editor of the publication in question, and provided the manuscript meets editorial approval for publication in the outlet to which transfer is proposed. Where a transfer is made, the date of receipt is the date on which the paper was received by the editorial office to which it was submitted originally. Papers submitted originally for publication by one of the associated societies may be accepted for publication by the Soil Science Society of America under the same policy.

4. Manuscripts published in the technical journals of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA must be original reports not previously or simultaneously published in any other scientific or technical journal. The question of when publication in nontechnical outlets constitutes prior publication must be decided on a case-by-case basis. Recognizing that research scientists often have an obligation to report their findings in nontechnical media prior to publication in

technical journals, publication in nontechnical outlets will not be considered prior publication unless essentially all the data and all the conclusions which have been drawn from the data are included in the nontechnical publication.

B. Applications of Research

Volunteer papers dealing with applications of research may be published in *Crops & Soils Magazine* by the American Society of Agronomy or as a Special Publication by the American Society of Agronomy or the Soil Science Society of America, depending on the subject matter. Such papers are not normally acceptable for publication in the *SSSA Journal*.

C. Reviews of Research

1. Short, critical reviews or essays on timely subjects, upon invitation by the editorial board, may be published in a special section of the *SSSA Journal*. This section shall not exceed 48 pages per year.

2. Extensive reviews of research may be published in *Agronomy Monographs* (by the American Society of Agronomy) or in *Advances in Agronomy* (by Academic Press for the American Society of Agronomy). They may be appropriate for publication in the Soil Science Society of America Special Publication series, depending on the subject, but are not eligible for publication in the *SSSA Journal*. Such reviews usually are prepared only after consultation with the editor of the proposed publication outlet.

D. Monographs

Reviews of research longer than those normally published in *Advances in Agronomy*, and other manuscripts dealing extensively with a particular subject may be published as an *Agronomy Monograph* by the American Society of Agronomy. Manuscripts of the nature of monographs on subjects that do not seem appropriate as an *Agronomy Monograph* may be acceptable for publication in the Soil Science Society of America Special Publication series. Preparation of manuscripts of the nature of monographs usually is undertaken only after consultation with the Monographs Committee or with the editor-in-chief.

E. Annual Addresses

Addresses by Society officers and by invitational speakers given at the annual general meeting are eligible for publication in the *SSSA Journal*. The manuscripts may be reviewed informally by the editorial board but shall require approval only with respect to form and style.

F. Invited Papers

1. The publication policy for invited papers given by Society members at annual meetings is as outlined in *A*, *B*, and *C*.

2. Invited papers given at annual meetings by nonmembers of the Society who have no members as coauthors are not eligible for

publication by the Society unless approval for eligibility is obtained from the president before the invitation is issued. Divisional chairmen who wish to issue invitations for papers should obtain this approval through the vice president, who is the general program chairman. The president may seek the advice of the editorial board in reaching a decision. Once approval for eligibility has been obtained, the manuscript is handled by the editorial board in accordance with the policy outlined in *A*, *B*, and *C*. Approval for eligibility by the president applies only to publications of the Soil Science Society of America. If the subject matter of the proposed manuscripts appears to fit better in one of the publications of the American Society of Agronomy, prior approval of that Society must be obtained as outlined above or in such other manner as may be specified by that Society. Where eligibility for publication is granted, the divisional chairman should make clear to the participants that action by the president does not alter the authority and responsibility of the editorial board to judge the suitability of the manuscript for publication.

G. Papers in a Joint Program or Symposium with Another Organization

The policy is the same as that outlined in *F* with two exceptions. First, if the individual representing the Soil Science Society of America in arrangements with the other organization is not a divisional chairman, he shall discharge the responsibilities charged to the divisional chairman in *F-2*. Second, agreement on publication procedures must be reached between the president of the Soil Science Society of America and the comparable official of the cooperating organization before invitations are issued.

H. Comment and Letters to the Editor

Critical comments on papers published in one of the Society outlets or elsewhere, editorial comment and comments by Society officers, and personal comments on matters having to do with soil science may be published in the *SSSA Journal*. Critical comments by nonmembers on papers published in one of the Society outlets are eligible for publication as are responses by nonmember authors of papers which are criticized in this department, subject to the approval of the manuscript for publication in this form by the editorial board. Only where intent of publication is clearly indicated by the author will personal comments be published. Contributions exceeding a length of one printed page in the *SSSA Journal* are not eligible for publication as a comment or letter to the editor.

I. Society Affairs

Business affairs of the Society and other items of interest and concern to members are published in the *SSSA Journal*.

J. Editorials

Occasional editorials may be published in the *SSSA Journal* as the need arises and at the discretion of the editor-in-chief.