

Foreword

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The Geodesist's Handbook is published by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) periodically after each IUGG/IAG General Assembly. The objective is to present the current IAG structure and its specifications, and to introduce the terms of reference and the officers of the Association's components for the upcoming legislative period to the broad geodetic community. The scientific program and planned activities are described in detail.

The first part of the Handbook 2020 presents the historical developments and current regulations of the IAG (Statutes, Bylaws and Rules as reviewed during the IUGG/IAG General Assembly 2019).

The second part summarises the outcome of the IAG General Assembly held in conjunction with the 27th IUGG General Assembly in Montreal, Canada, in July 2019. An overview of the most important IAG results from 2015 to 2019 is given in the presidential address. The citations of the scientists decorated in Montreal with the highest IAG awards (Levallois Medal, Guy Bomford Prize, and Young Authors Award) are published. Reports of the Secretary General, the IAG Council and Executive Committee meetings, and the IUGG and IAG resolutions conclude this section.

The third part of the Handbook contains the detailed structures and programs for the period 2019-2023. All IAG components (Commissions, Inter-commission Committee, Communication and Outreach Branch, Services, and the Global Geodetic Observing System) are presented along with their sub-components (Sub-commissions, Projects, Study Groups and Working Groups). This part describes the planned scientific work of IAG during the coming years.

The fourth part completes the Handbook with some general information useful for the geodetic community. The IAG Internet representation and the publication series are highlighted, and the IAG national delegates and representatives to services and international scientific bodies are listed.

We thank the contributors to the Geodesist's Handbook 2020. These are in particular all the IAG officers listed in the structures, but also the uncounted secretaries and technicians in the institutions affiliated with IAG or one of its components and sub-components. The engaged and authentic cooperation in geodesy is one of the most effective means for the great success of our science. We hope that this collaboration will be continued or even extended in the current period 2019-2023.

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List of previous Geodesist's Handbooks

- 1980: Bulletin Géodésique, Vol. 54, No. 3, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/54/3/page/1>
- 1984: Bulletin Géodésique, Vol. 58, No. 3, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/58/3/page/1>
- 1988: Bulletin Géodésique, Vol. 62, No. 3, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/62/3/page/1>
- 1992: Bulletin Géodésique, Vol. 66, No. 2, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/66/2/page/1>
- 1996: Journal of Geodesy, Vol. 70, No. 12, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/70/12/page/1>
- 2000: Journal of Geodesy, Vol. 74, No. 1, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/74/1/page/1>
- 2004: Journal of Geodesy, Vol. 77, No. 10-11, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/77/10/page/1>
- 2008: Journal of Geodesy, Vol. 82, No. 11, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/82/11/page/1> (open access)
- 2012: Journal of Geodesy, Vol. 86, No. 10, <http://link.springer.com/journal/190/86/10/page/1> (open access)
- 2016: Journal of Geodesy, Vol. 90, No. 10, <https://link.springer.com/journal/190/90/10/page/1> (open access)