



Announcing: The SWS Research Brief

What is it?

A non-technical document based on WETLANDS research papers plus group briefs written on special topics

Purpose?

To allow scientists to be directly involved in making their research findings more understandable and accessible to non-scientists

Process?

2-4 page briefs will be prepared using an electronic template, submitted, reviewed, and posted as pdf files on the SWS Website for free downloading by end-users

Questions?

*Watch for more information on the SWS Website
www.sws.org*

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The Society of Wetland Scientists is launching a new publication: The SWS Research Brief. These non-technical documents will summarize papers published in WETLANDS plus group briefs on special topics and provide them free for downloading from the SWS Website.

The purpose is to provide scientific information about wetlands to managers, students, media, policy-makers, and the general public in a format that is understandable, accessible, and identifiable as an SWS publication.

The SWS Research Brief embraces the concept that scientists can make their research findings more understandable and accessible and also play a direct role in the process of translating science for non-scientists.

Types of Research Brief

Submissions will be of three types:

1. Individual briefs based on single research papers published in WETLANDS. One or more authors of the technical paper would write and submit the brief.
2. Group research briefs developed from a group of papers published in WETLANDS on a specific topic. One or more authors of the technical papers would collaborate to prepare and submit the brief. Authors could represent different viewpoints or different aspects of the topic.
3. Special briefs focused on important topics that summarize information from a variety of technical sources. These briefs would be prepared by recognized experts in the field and would be by invitation only.

Submission and Review Process

- Guidelines for preparing and submitting articles to be published as a SWS Research Brief will be sent to the author upon request.
- Authors will use an electronic template to create the document to be submitted.
- The submission will undergo a modified review process. The main objectives of the review will be to determine if: 1) the document accurately conveys the findings of the technical paper or topic in a way that is interesting and understandable to a non-technical audience and 2) conforms to the SWS Research Brief format.
- After the brief has been accepted, it will be converted to a pdf file and posted on the SWS Website for downloading by users.

Benefits for SWS

Some of the advantages of this publication to SWS include: 1) wider recognition of SWS by the general public and policy-makers as providers of accessible science information, 2) attract new members from the scientific and non-scientific communities, 3) attract readers to other SWS publications, and 4) generally improve communication between wetland scientists and the end-users of the information.