

Foreword

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Academic writing and publishing in the field of geography has changed dramatically during the last few years in Finland and in many other countries in Europe as well. The general goal is to publish almost all research in international refereed journals with high impact factors. The higher the factor, the better the article. Of course this is not completely true, but lately international refereed journals are more often included in the basics of management by results at ministry, university, faculty and department levels, not forgetting the personal level. A successful university career requires international publishing.

The Department of Geography, University of Oulu, is celebrating its 50-year Anniversary in 2009. As a part of the celebration, the Department organized Alumni Days in February. At that event, the Department published its anniversary volume 'Viisi vuosikymmentä oululaista maantiedettä' [Five Decades of Geography in Oulu]. The second part of the ceremonies is the Annual Meeting of the Finnish Geographers. The Nordia Geographical Publications Yearbook 2009 will be published at the event. The theme for the 2009 Yearbook is "Northern Change".

In spite of the transformed academic publication practices mentioned above, there have been eager writers enough for both volumes. As the visiting editor of the Nordia Geographical Yearbook 2009,

I wish to thank all the writers for their contribution to these two books. Without the writers and the books, an important part of the celebrations would have been missed. At the moment, it seems that the time for various extensive anniversary volumes is over and research has to be published primarily through other channels. Space for diverse semi-scientific publication will be increasingly limited. However, these celebration volumes can be seen as historical milestones for future generations of geographers.

I thank also the Board of the Northern Geographical Society for the opportunity to be a guest editor. The Board will face many challenges in planning the future of its publication profile. The publishing work carried out thus far has been very successful. For example, many doctoral theses, often after a very quick process, have been published in Nordia Geographical Publications. In the end, we have to recognize that many kind of publishing activities are needed and that they are supplementary, and that publishing processes will change in the future, as will geographical research.

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Guest Editor

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