

Western Geography* 27 Editorial: Enhanced access to *Western Geography

In the summer of 2025, University of Victoria (UVic) Systems informed UVic Geography and this Editor that UVic Geography would no longer be allowed to run its own server which hosted *Western Geography* (because of IT security issues.) Thankfully UVic Libraries stepped up and is now hosting the WDCAG website and *Western Geography*.

The *Western Geography* 26, 2024 Editorial wrote that *Western Geography* is not indexed, that is, its volumes and contents are not in any commercial publisher literature database (or indexing database) and not directly crawled by *Google Scholar*. While some web crawlers indexed some articles from *Western Geography*, none of the articles listed in *Google Scholar* were from the *Western Geography* site formally hosted at UVic Department of Geography. (Most of *Western Geography* articles via *Google Scholar* are from *CiteSeer* from Penn State College of Information Sciences and Technology, ResearchGate.net and Academia.edu and very few articles that were published after 2018.)

This Editor is pleased to announce that after implementing *Google Scholar*'s 'crawl' recommendations <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/inclusion.html> <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/inclusion.html#indexing> and specifically <meta name> tags *Western Geography* is now crawled by *Google Scholar* (but it took more than 4 months for *Scholar* to crawl *WG*.)

In addition, this Editor decided *Western Geography* should convert to the Public Knowledge Project Open Journal System (PKP/OJS) since *WG* is an open access journal. Dr. Inba Kehoe, Head, Copyright and Scholarly Communications Librarian at UVic Libraries, kindly had her staff convert and transform *Western Geography* to the PKP/OJS standards. See <https://wdcag.journals.uvic.ca/index.php/wg> Within three weeks, *Google Scholar* crawled *WG*.

Meanwhile as reported last year, this Editor is in contact with *Gale Canadian Periodical Index-CPI* to index *Western Geography*. A formal contract needs to be signed and more discussion with WDCAG Executive, *WG* Editorial Board and perhaps WDCAG members would be beneficial.

Finally, this Editor proposes *Western Geography* should change its name to *Western Geographies*.

At the upcoming WDCAG conference to be held at UBC Vancouver in March 2026 these *Western Geography* issues will be discussed.

As for this volume of *Western Geography*, thank you to all of those who submitted and thanks to the Referees, including the guest Referees, for all their work.

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