

## ***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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