



In The Trenches Annual Report for FY2025

Submitted by Cheryl Manning, Editor-in-Chief

Executive summary

I agreed to be the Interim ITT editor in March 2025. Over the last 6 months, I have focused on learning the procedures, seeking out new articles, and working with authors and reviewers to get articles published. I still have a lot to learn.

Detailed report

Progress towards goals

The previous ITT editor stated the goals for ITT as questions. First, "Should we only allow short (less than 2500 words) articles and break up longer articles so they span multiple publication periods?" For most long articles, she did not believe this would work well. Fearing the continuity of the topic would be lost. It might be possible to rearrange the article to tell multiple stories, but that requires more work for the author and editor. Next, "Is 3 weeks the best recurrence interval for articles, both practically and professionally?" She was worried that this may not be practical because of the need to encourage authors to compose articles. Finally, she stated that the articles should come out on a regular basis so readers know when to expect a new article.

Monthly and bimonthly articles have been published since the journal went exclusively online.

Submissions

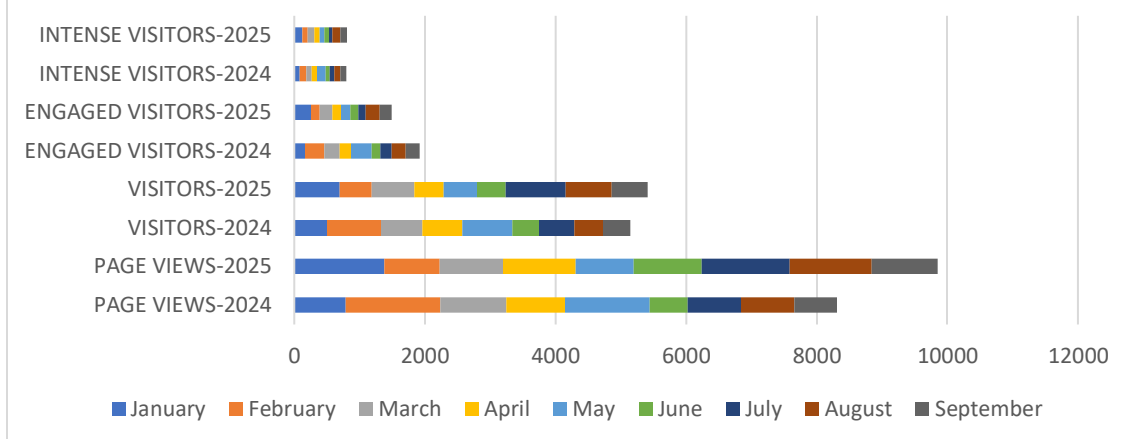
The online version of In The Trenches began in January 2025. Twenty articles have been submitted. Seventeen of those have been published. The other three have been reviewed and the authors are currently modifying them.

Statistics

The movement of In The Trenches to an online format has resulted in a change of visitation to the webpage as shown in Figure 1.

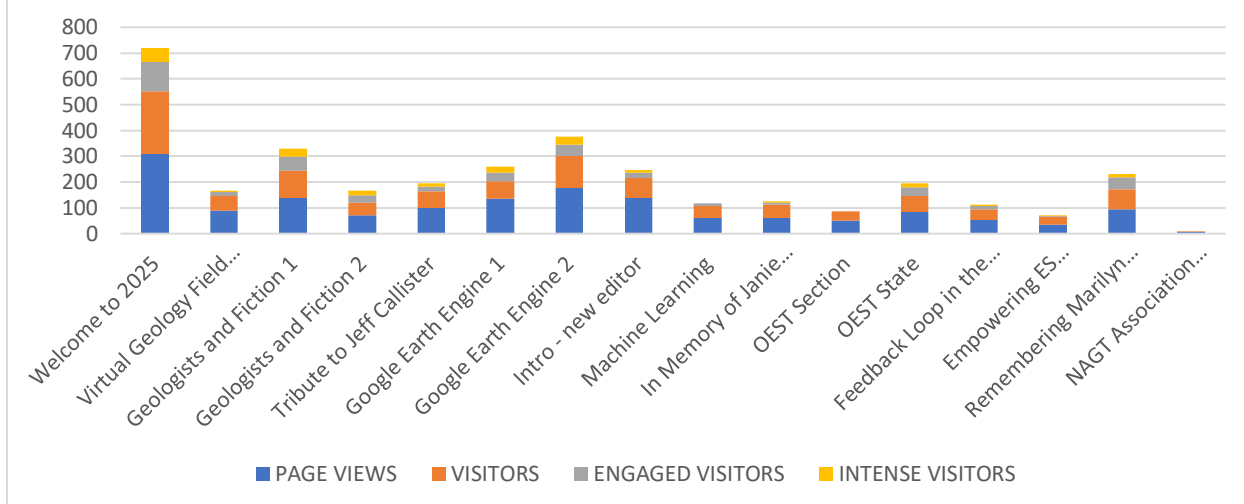


Figure 1: Comparison of Site Visits between 2024 and 2025



It is not clear if timing or frequency is affected by the online format as shown in Figure 2:

Figure 2: Number of Views and Visitors for each Article



Planned and/or published theme issues (if appropriate)

I am working to develop an annual flow for thematic articles. This will include articles celebrating awards (OEST in May, Association Awards in September), committee reports, and conference reports from EER.

Challenges or anticipated needs

Getting commitments from authors is the greatest challenge so far. It is also challenging to get readers to comment, respond, and discuss articles.



Goals for future work

- *Increase the number and variety of articles*
- *Increase the number of people who are engaging with the articles via the discussion options.*