

ISWA Science Task Force

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Foreword

In ISWA's bid to recognize the importance of and strengthen academic participation in ISWA, a Task Force on Science was established in 2010. It is acknowledged that ISWA already connects with the scientific community through its journal of Waste Management & Research which belongs to the oldest and most renowned international journals (existing since 1983) on waste management. Also recognised is that there are acclaimed and well placed academics already working within ISWA, providing substantial scientific value and support to ISWA's activities.

The ambition to develop the academic profile and scientific basis of ISWA is not entirely new, in 2006 the report *"ISWA at the crossroads! - Integrating intellectual and material resources to achieve globally sustainable waste management"* was written by a previously appointed Task group to reach the same objective.

The recently appointed Task Force- Science has elaborated the following action plan to allow ISWA to further utilize its strengths and opportunities within the scientific community. The Task Force aims to create a new and more attractive framework for academics participation in ISWA, to exploit further the academic resources already involved with ISWA, and to create better conditions for the required innovative symbiosis between market and scientific developments.

With special reference to the contents of the Action plan, the text for action 1 (on the WM&R-EIC) was drafted without input from the incumbent EIC in order to obtain a fresh and unbiased view of the position and its responsibilities in a future situation.

The Task Force recommends that once ISWA has agreed to adopt the proposed actions or a selection of those, then a detailed second round of efforts should be initiated that is targeted on providing a more "solid" financial base upon which the set of proposed actions could be realized.

Taskforce Science - Action Plan

Action 1: WM&R Chief Editor

- i. Propose changes to the ISWA Statutes, Operational Guidelines and Internal Regulations to the effect that the WM&R Chief editor participates in selected ISWA Board and STC meetings, in order to create practical links and to interact with ISWA activities.
- ii. Propose changes to ISWA Operational Guidelines to ensure more linkage between the role of the Editorial Group and ISWA activities (in particular activities within the working groups)
- iii. Development of a new Terms of Reference for the EIC, including his/ her requirements and duties and the need for a more direct link with ISWA activities.
- iv. Developing a strategy to broaden the scope of the journal beyond classical waste management (e.g. including issues like extended producer responsibility, design for recycling, life cycle analysis, secondary resources, urban mining), since the research focus of academic WM institutes has shifted towards these topics within the last decade.

Action 2: WM&R and its links with ISWA

- i. Arrange for annual special WM&R issues, e.g. dedicated to ISWA annual congresses, including the best papers which are to be suggested by the scientific committee of the annual congress
- ii. Propose that ISWA WGs submit to WM&R directly or through their professional network every 5 years one review article in their field of expertise
- iii. Propose that each WG submits to WM&R directly or through their professional network every year one original article in their field of expertise
- iv. Propose that ISWA Board submits once a year an editorial for WM&R. Typically dealing with a hot SWM topic that is internationally interesting and where ISWA may wish to make a point or propose action. Internal organizational business is not for WM&R, but policy, management or technology oriented SWM topics are.
- v. Propose that the monthly WM&R editorial (or a short version of it) might be part of the monthly Newsletter from ISWA (conditional on agreement by SAGE).
- vi. Propose that the ISWA website should in any case be updated monthly and bring the editorial (short version?) and a list of contents for the next issue of WM&R. Newsletter editor is free to make comments, e.g. on special articles or country related problems or other.
- vii. Propose that each WG should appoint at least one WM&R Editorial Board (EB) member (3 year terms). Well-functioning EB members are candidates for Editorial Group (EG) membership when EG vacancies arise. EB duties are to participate in WM&R policy discussions (by electronic communication plus physical presence at the annual ISWA Congress when possible) and to act as super referee (3-5 manuscripts per year).
- viii. Propose that the ISWA board may wish to appoint an EB member
- ix. Propose that the STC Chair or Deputy Chair attends the annual WM&R Editorial Group and Editorial Board Meetings

Action 3: Involvement of academics, universities and research institutions

- i. Set up a standard procedure to obtain ISSN numbers for ISWA Annual Congresses and ISWA Beacon conferences, to make it more attractive for academics to submit papers.
- ii. Prepare draft terms and conditions for ISWA research activities and scholarships with emphasis on combining science and market issues, to be awarded under the ISWA Project Grant.
- iii. Identify university networks to enhance the ability of ISWA to facilitate research and education programmes.
- iv. Prepare draft terms and conditions for ISWA's cooperation with academic and research institutes which in some cases might also be linked to the IWM Program (as approved by the STC, July 2009, Lisbon)
- v. Identify potential partnerships with organisations that share the same goals in research, education and training , for example UNEP, ICLEI
- vi. ISWA Working groups should define relevant "research questions in their field of expertise", which could subsequently be tackled by young scientists in the frame of their Master thesis. This would allow strengthening the ties between ISWA working groups, academic institutions and young scientists.
- vii. Prepare a concept for a Thesis Award (best Master and/or PhD thesis will be awarded at the annual congress – The award could include ISWA membership, participation in WG meeting and annual congress)

Action 4: ISWA summer schools

- i. Prepare draft terms and conditions for ISWA's cooperation with academic institutes regarding the establishment of an annual ISWA summer school, to attract young people around ISWA activities providing high level educational activities and content and the opportunity to contact with reliable professionals. (Participants from developing or transition economies should have the possibility to attend the summer schools by ISWA providing scholarships.)

Action 1 - WM&R Chief Editor

Draft for the Terms of reference for the Editor-in-Chief

General objectives and terms

Waste management and Research (WM&R) is a leading journal in the field of waste management on a global level. It is the aim of ISWA to maintain and expand this role of the journal, to make it an authoritative as well as opinion leading scientific journal that serves both the academic as well as the professional world in the field of solid waste management.

The Journal operates in an economic environment and earns income for ISWA. WM&R profits from ISWA because all ISWA members have access to WM&R. This mutual benefit is important, and ISWA intends to continue it. However, ISWA shall not interfere with the performance of the Journal, neither in economic terms nor in terms of content. Both responsibilities are sole concerns of the Editor-in-chief EiC and the journal publisher SAGE.

The Journal is published¹ by SAGE. While ISWA is the contracting entity deciding about the global budget and the revenue from the publisher, the EiC is the main point of contact for the publisher, and responsible for all issues regarding the cooperation between WM&R and the publisher.

The EiC is the point person with regards to WM&R to ISWA and the publisher SAGE. Of ISWA, the board and/or the general assembly are the responsible entities for the EiC. The EiC reports to these entities of ISWA and also to the publisher once a year.

The EiC prepares and presents his/her ideas how to fulfill the general objectives stated above. In particular, he/she

1. outlines how (strategy, concepts, practical means) to become the number one journal of waste management over the next 6 years
2. defines criteria (such as manuscripts published, rejection rate, usage, impact factors, number of citations, geographical location of readers and subscriptions, etc.) that are to be applied to measure the success of the journal
3. outlines the organizational structure of the Journal (functions of EiC, Associated Editors, Editorial Board, authors, reviewers, publisher; organization and cooperation between these functions)
4. contributes to the preparation of the Journal budget for the next fiscal year in conjunction with the publisher and ISWA.

The EiC has the sole responsibility for the international reputation and profile of the Journal. Measures for evaluating the success of the journal include

- the number and quality of submissions, and the rejection rate
- the number and geographical location of readers and online usage
- the number of citations and impact factor, and also
- the financial position of the journal.

¹ Includes: hosted online, submission system supplied and maintained, collation, typesetting, printing, distributing, marketing, promotion and sales

The Journal's policies and publishing strategy are determined by Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Associate Editors and Publisher, whereby special focus should be given in future to broaden the scope of the journal beyond classical waste management (e.g. including issues like extended producer responsibility, design for recycling, life cycle analysis, SEA, secondary resources, urban mining etc), since the research focus of academic waste management institutes has shifted towards these topics within the last decade. Furthermore the EiC is responsible for attracting and selecting content for the Journal. He/she has the ultimate responsibility for the acceptance of papers.

An appropriate honorarium should be provided, as well as some travel money (for the participation in Editorial Board meetings, ISWA board meetings and STC meetings).

Detailed responsibilities of the EiC are:

A) Manuscript Processing:

- Pre-screening of incoming manuscripts for up-front rejections, to ensure in scope and within quality criteria
- Allocate manuscripts to Associate Editors
- Manage peer review on articles allocated to own list
- Write editorials
- Arbitrate on difficult manuscripts
- Export to SAGE
- Ensure copyright forms have been signed and permissions granted

B) Reporting and overall copy-flow control

- Ensure rejection/acceptance rate ratio is correct
- Ensure there are enough quality papers to SAGE and to schedule for publication
- Maintain and encourage increase in quality
- Associate Editor/author/reviewer liaison
- Report to both ISWA (Board and/or General Assembly) and the Publisher, which summarizes main benchmarks of the journal (e.g., contributions, subscriptions, citations, and impact factor), activities undertaken for growing the journal as well as a list of referees who have been helpful during the past year.
- Providing advice to the Journal Publisher during preparation of the Journal's annual publishing and marketing plans
- Maintains and revises as necessary the Notes for Contributors, Manual, and Guidelines etc published on the website of WM&R.

C) Journal Development

- Lead group to make improvements to the journal such as increase speed of peer review or change of scope
- Promoting the Journal and encouraging high quality submissions, including review papers, whereby for the latter the working groups of ISWA should be committed.
- Work closely with Publisher to assess what topics should be published and when

- Be world leader in the field
- Know the community and publish appropriate material to maximize the scientific impact of the journal
- Keep up to date with publishing developments and respond appropriately
- Regularly report and assess the journal to identify and implement improvements
- The Editor-in-Chief liaises, as appropriate, with the organizing committees of ISWA conferences (ISWA annual congress as well as ISWA beacon conferences) and other appropriate meetings to consider publication opportunities arising from these meetings.
- Participation in ISWA Board and Scientific Technical Committee (STC) meetings in order to create practical links between WM&R and ISWA; and to interact with ISWA activities.
- Representing Waste Management & Research at international conferences, during visits to key institutions/laboratories, etc.

D) Editorial Group Leadership

- Lead group to effectively produce a high quality archival journal
- Organise and hold editorial board meetings to ensure productive and open relationships within the group
- Overseeing the appointment of Associate Editors, with the term of appointment usually being 3 years, but renewal based on performance.
- Assess and create journal policy in consultation with the Publisher and society

E) Publisher liaison

- Work closely with the Publisher to assess the journal to identify and implement improvements
- Be responsive and open to Publisher suggestions of innovations and improvements, for example the online submissions system
- Work closely with the Production Editor at SAGE and be on hand to answer queries and issues
- Work with the Publisher to identify individual articles that would be appropriate for additional promotion and/or PR activity
- Identify and work alongside the Publisher to find sponsorship for themed issues which will be published as supplements

Action 2 - WM&R and its links with ISWA

ISWA facilitates interaction, communication and flows of information between professionals in science and practice. Efficient dissemination and use of information is vital and based on activities within ISWA or between ISWA and partners, e.g. other international organisations. Education and training are important facilitation obligations for ISWA. Sustainable waste management (SWM) is the target above all.

Facilitation is the key to improved action. ISWA acts by facilitating networks, working groups (WG), and conferences, and by publishing information, e.g. WM&R, WMW, proceedings, reports, and ISWA Newsletter.

Recommendations

Recommended WM&R-ISWA links and joint action to facilitate SWM on a more scientific and global scale is itemised here:

- Each WG should submit to WM&R directly or through their professional network every 4 years one review article in their field of expertise. Review articles produce up-to-date assessments of technology and management systems and are typically authored and edited by experienced scientists and professionals. They create knowledge for use in practice and add to the recognition of ISWA as well as the impact factor (IF) of WM&R. All submitted articles will be subject to the usual peer review process and will not automatically be accepted for publication.
- Each WG should submit to WM&R directly or through their professional network every year one original article in their field of expertise. WG comprise experts and networking activities that could identify hot topics suitable for research articles or case studies worth of publication in WM&R. With a few exceptions, WG have not in the past made use of this opportunity to add their own focus and quality of work-. All submitted articles will be subject to the usual peer review process and will not automatically be accepted for publication.
- ISWA Board should submit once a year an editorial for WM&R. Typically it would deal with a hot SWM topic that is internationally interesting and where ISWA may wish to make a point or propose action. Internal organisational business is not for WM&R, but policy, management or technology oriented SWM topics are. While in the far past WM&R concentrated on technology issues, the recent past has included also management and regulatory issues and created a broader audience, including scientists, managers and administrators.
- The monthly ISWA Newsletter should bring the title plus a one liner text plus a link to publicise the next WM&R editorial. WM&R has recently experienced interest from readers in commenting on articles in WM&R, not least the editorials. The WM&R editors will be happy to reserve a few pages for "Letter to the editors" and thereby help make the professional response within and around ISWA more live and pertinent to actual global waste problems- on a scientific basis.
- The ISWA website should in any case be updated monthly and bring the editorial topic and a list of contents for the next issue of WM&R. The ISWA Newsletter editor is free to make comments and links, e.g. to special articles or country related or other problems found in WM&R.
- Each WG should suggest a candidate for the WM&R Editorial Board (EB) member (3 year terms). Well functioning EB members are candidates for Editorial Group (EG) membership when EG vacancies arise. EB duties are to participate in WM&R policy discussions (by electronic communication plus physical presence at the annual ISWA Congress when possible) and to act as super referee (3-5 manuscripts per year) for WM&R.
- The ISWA Board should appoint one EB member.

- The established mechanism for creating Sponsored Special Issues (SSI) of WM&R on hot topics, or on areas in need of integrated action, or on assembling knowledge for improved performance in research and practice should be further developed. These issues will be published in addition to the usual 12 issues, but costs must be covered from outside of the Publishers budget. It has been possible for WM&R editors to identify sponsors for some of such recent WM&R-SSI, and ISWA 2012 in Rome has decided to invest in a special WM&R issue for best presentations to be published at the time of the Congress. This is concrete promotion of good scientific practice within ISWA-and it increases the economic benefit that WM&R contributes annually to the ISWA budget.

Supporting thinking and action

- Researchers (in SWM) are found at universities and public and private research institutions in most member countries. The younger generation of researchers is interesting because new ideas are often coming through work by that group of professionals. To some extent are these young researchers and their supervisors already readers of and authors in WM&R, but most of them are not ISWA members. Only to a very limited extent do we see them at ISWA meetings or in ISWA WG. Remedial action could be
 - WG meetings to be held at research institutions or corporations/businesses where novel SWM concepts, systems or technologies are being researched or applied. Forward-oriented research and action but not backward-related WG organization issues – should create the agendas. Invited speakers should be used to inspire discussions, and ISWA membership should not in the first hand be an issue. Such WG action will provide food for thought and hence 1) ideas for specialized conferences/seminars to be held and 2) possible presentations at conferences or manuscripts for journals, e.g. WM&R.
 - WG to identify areas/topics in need of research (technologies, systems, regulatory frameworks) and where young talent could make a change if properly placed for the research and thereafter employed in certain sectors or countries. Young researchers trained and supported this way will be excellent ambassadors for and actors within ISWA in the longer perspective.
 - Young researchers (e.g. PhD students) can be motivated by modest prizes and partial support (e.g. fee waiving and/or some travel support). Various motivation models should be tested by ISWA WG and supported by the GS through allocation of some seed money
- University networks could be identified (or built) to enhance the ability of ISWA to facilitate research and education programmes. For example, in Europe it would be easy to establish networks to offer advanced waste to energy system education; or advanced biological treatment of organic wastes; or advanced LCA and decision-support systems for SWM. It is important to realize that such university networks would normally use industry and corporate partners to make the education real-life oriented (cases and experience from the partners). It is also important that existing university networks could be used to facilitate links between different countries and continents and between the industrialized and the developing countries. Scholarships might be the mechanism by which to initiate such programmes. Financing by sponsorships seems necessary.
- Partnerships with for example UNEP should be investigated in terms of how to match ISWA and UNEP ideas and needs in research, education and training. The recent UNEP publication on Waste & Climate and ISWA's White Paper from 2009 on that same topic would be an ideal opportunity to start such partnership discussions.
- ICLEI would be another interesting partner for ISWA to identify joint needs for research, education and training on urban SWM.
- Recent WM&R-EG discussions with selected US scholars have indicated that more prestigious (novelty and scientific quality) ISWA conferences are necessary to attract renowned

authors/researchers & leaders from that continent. But it applies certainly as well for renowned Europeans (outside the traditional ISWA membership). And it is certainly true for young scientists in general. More visibility (web task) and a more convincing scientific ***ambition*** would help.

Action 3 - Involvement of academics, universities and research institutions

Currently, the ISWA involvement of academics, universities and research institutions is rather limited, as members with university affiliation make up little less than 8% of the membership base (ISWA at the crossroads Report, 2006). This has to change in a timely fashion, should ISWA wish to continue to serve effectively the field of Sustainable Waste Management (SWM), that is to facilitate SWM on a more scientific and global scale. Moreover, the WM&R also needs to attract renowned authors/researchers & leaders as well as promising young scientists from the US and other parts of the world. Therefore, it is proposed herein that the above goals would be achieved through a series of recommended steps that are outlined and briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

The philosophy behind the proposed approach can be simply described as follows: Identify “real” issues or problems or challenges within the field of WM (the Working Groups, WGs can easily facilitate this identification step) and work them out in a University or Research Institution environment involving both academia and field practitioners. The intellectual outcome of all this, in the form of peer-reviewed, high-quality journal publications, effectively linking real market issues resolution with “strong” science, will be channelled effectively through WM&R. Out of this recommended process both ISWA and WM&R will undoubtedly gain significantly in both scientific substance and prestige.

Specific Recommendations

- i. Standard procedure to obtain ISSN numbers for ISWA Annual Congresses and Beacon Conferences, to make them more attractive for academics to submit papers (*see Appendix*)
- ii. Prepare draft terms and conditions for ISWA research activities and scholarships with emphasis on combining science and market issues, to be awarded under the ISWA Project Grant.
- iii. Identify University networks to enhance the ability of ISWA to facilitate research and education programs. Here ISWA needs to target certain groups of academics and researchers and do this in a strategic fashion. That is, to target young and upcoming individuals with demonstrated potential as well as renowned authors/researchers & leaders in WM research. There has to be also a geographic targeting strategy, aiming at individuals and University networks from underrepresented, both in ISWA and WM&R, countries such as the US, Canada, Brasil, China, Japan, Singapore, Russia, South Africa, Africa (link with the UN), Australia, New Zealand, etc. A specific way of identifying both promising young scientists and renowned authors and leaders that should be targeted by ISWA and WM&R entails the use of databases such as Scopus, Springerlink, googlescholar, etc. for selected WM topics. Eventually, ISWA will create a database of University networks, universities, research institutions, individual professors and researchers, research capabilities including specialty equipment and overall expertise. This will enable ISWA private companies to readily identify where to go to sponsor applied research for specific industry needs and ends. Initially, ISWA should fund selected projects on a competitive basis in order to “jump start” this initiative.
- iv. Prepare draft terms and conditions for ISWA’s cooperation with academic and research institutes which in some cases might also be linked to the IWM Program (as approved by the STC, July 2009, Lisbon)
- v. Identify potential partnerships with organisations that share the same goals in research, education and training, for example UNEP, ICLEI. Here, ISWA needs to develop programs where upon field practitioners (individuals or from private companies which currently is the “backbone” of ISWA) will be invited to give guest lectures in universities and research institutions from the previously mentioned targeted University networks lists. First select

universities and research institutions where existing ISWA members (preferably active in WGs) can easily go (are local) and give those lectures. Also, certain targeted events can be created around ISWA conferences, workshops and other meetings, whereupon visiting practitioners (invited speakers and not only), will not only give their lecture at the organized event, but will schedule to give the same lecture at a local-to-the-ISWA-event university or research institution. Doing this, ISWA will gain publicity and maximize all potential outcomes from such events that take place anyway.

- vi. ISWA Working groups should define relevant “research questions in their field of expertise”, which could subsequently be tackled by young scientists in the frame of their Master thesis. This would allow strengthening the ties between ISWA working groups, academic institutions and young scientists.
- vii. Prepare a concept for a Thesis Award (best Master and/or PhD thesis will be awarded at the annual congress – The award could include ISWA membership, participation in WG meeting and annual congress)

Action 4 – ISWA summer schools as a tool to support the linkage to academics

Suggested road map for ISWA summer schools

The establishment of ISWA summer schools in cooperation with renowned universities would be beneficial in a many ways:

First of all, it would increase the visibility of ISWA as world leading organization of solid waste management to students (PhD and Master Students) and can hence be regarded as important investment in the future. In addition also employees in the field waste management should be accommodated by the summer school and thereby attracted to become a member of ISWA. Overall the establishment of an ISWA summer school can be regarded as one step beside many others to sharpen the scientific profile of ISWA.

Second, participants (students and employees seeking for continuing education) will benefit on the one hand by the practical and theoretical knowledge taught in the frame of the summer school, and on the other hand also by networking with other participants.

And third, also the host university (which should be changed every year) will strongly benefit by the realization of an ISWA summer school. This is due to the close cooperation with a practical & scientific oriented organization like ISWA, the increased visibility in the WM community, as well as the opportunity to work with highly motivated students from all over the world.

Suggested pilot cases:

1st ISWA summer school in cooperation with TU Vienna

Analysis, Evaluation and Design of Sustainable Solid Waste Management

Location: Vienna (Austria)

September 2012

2nd ISWA summer school in cooperation with the University of Novi Sad

Challenges and Opportunities for Solid Waste Managers in East and South Eastern Europe

Location: Novi Sad (Serbia)

July or August 2013

3rd ISWA summer school in cooperation with the University of Malaya

Challenges in Hazardous Waste Management in Asia and Pacific Islands

Location: Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

July or August 2014

4th ISWA summer school in cooperation with Aalborg University and/or DTU

Life Cycle Analysis of Solid Waste Management Systems

Location: Copenhagen or Aalborg (Denmark)

July or August 2015

Detailed draft on the 1st ISWA summer school on Solid Waste Management

to be organized in cooperation with TU Wien
(Institute for Water Quality, Resources and Waste Management)

Time: 3rd – 15th of September 2012 (2 weeks)

Analysis, Evaluation and Design of Sustainable Waste Management Systems

1st week

1. Day: Welcome, Introduction of ISWA, Introduction into Solid Waste Management and Basics of Material Flow Analysis
2. Day: MFA- Software STAN, incl. exercises
3. Day: Waste Management processes I (waste collection and recycling) incl. exercises
4. Day: Waste Management processes II (WtE, MBT, composting) including exercises
5. Day: Waste Management processes III (landfilling) incl. exercises, and sum up of first week
6. Day: *Social activities (sightseeing in and around Vienna)*

2nd week

1. Day: Evaluation methods and knowledge base for goal oriented Waste Management (based on practical examples)
2. Day: Excursion (WtE plant, composting, MBT, recycling plants close to Vienna)
3. Day: Goal oriented waste management in transition and developing economies + instruction for project work
4. Day: Project work (Scenario analysis for regional waste management systems using MFA)
5. Day: Project work & final presentation
fair well (certificate for participation)

Target group: PhD students (and to some extent also Master students) from all over the world, WM experts from transition and developing countries (from authorities, consulting companies as well as from the waste industry)

Suggestions: Discount fee for ISWA members and also for students from developing countries

Since it is planned that the summer school takes place directly prior the annual ISWA congress in Firenze, it is planned that summer school participants should also participate in the annual ISWA congress.

Appendix. Standard procedure to obtain ISSN numbers for conference proceedings

Every ISWA Annual Congress and Beacon Conference contract between ISWA and conference organizers shall include the following paragraph:

The Organizer is obliged to provide the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) for the conference Proceedings. ISBN must be printed on the book cover. The information and the instructions for obtaining ISBN are found below (given as an example for the country of Serbia).

ISBN Serbia

In order for publisher to be included in the ISBN system it is necessary to provide all relevant information for the database set in the Application form. The inclusion procedure implies opening new files and completion of documentation on the Publisher and filling out the database and register books of the National Library of Serbia. Once included in the ISBN system, data on the Publisher become available in the International Publisher Address book. The Publisher obtains certain group of ISBN numbers available for several publications, which are also transferable to the following year. Publisher is obliged to designate one person within the company, who will communicate with the national agency, assign the first available ISBN to the publication, take care not to assign the same ISBN to two different publications or that ISBN is correctly marked. The Publisher is responsible for any printing mistakes and correct assignment of ISBN.

ISBN has to be printed on the publication on the following places: back cover page in the lower right corner; within CIP categorization; Impressum page; back side of the front page or the bottom of the front page; the bottom of the protective cover; the back of the protective box; box sticker (for tapes, disks, CDs or DVDs); front page of the electronic publication (CDs or Web page); introduction to the video or the film; other visible place of the book cover.

