

## Curating a Heritage-oriented Special Issue in the Journal of Earth Science and Environment: Practice and Implications

**Authors:** Ma Wenjun, Yang Yang, Liu Qingqing

**Date:** 2024-01-31T00:00:00+00:00

### Abstract

[Objective] To explore feasible pathways for general scientific journals to plan and publish high-quality special issues.

[Methods] Taking the general scientific journal “Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment” as an example, this study evaluated the publication effectiveness of 9 spirit-inheritance-themed special issues published from 2021 to present using statistical data.

[Results] Compared with other issues published during 2020-2023, the quality of the 9 spirit-inheritance-themed special issues published concurrently in the “Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment” showed significant improvement.

[Conclusion] For general scientific journals, planning and publishing spirit-inheritance-themed special issues represents an important pathway to enhance academic influence; listing high-quality experts as key solicitation targets can improve manuscript solicitation success rates; strictly implementing the “three reviews and three proofreads” system serves as an important guarantee for publishing high-quality special issues; developing rich external presentation designs can enhance the dissemination effectiveness of special issues; and fully leveraging the subjective initiative of editors constitutes an important mechanism for publishing high-quality special issues.

### Full Text

**Practice and Enlightenment from Planning and Publishing Spirit-Inherited Special Issues in *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment***

Ma Wenjun, Yang Yang, Liu Qingqing

Academic Journal Management Center, Chang'an University, Middle Section of South Second Ring Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710064, China

**Abstract:** [Purpose] To explore feasible pathways for ordinary sci-tech journals to plan and publish high-quality special issues. [Method] Taking the ordinary sci-tech journal *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* as an example, this study evaluated the publication effects of nine spirit-inherited special issues published from 2021 to present using statistical data. [Result] Compared with other issues published during 2020–2023, the nine spirit-inherited special issues published by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* demonstrated significant quality improvement. [Conclusion] For ordinary sci-tech journals, planning and publishing spirit-inherited special issues represents an important pathway to enhance academic influence; identifying high-quality experts as key solicitation targets can improve contribution success rates; strict implementation of the “three reviews and three proofreads” system is crucial for publishing high-quality special issues; conducting rich external presentation design can enhance special issue dissemination effects; and fully leveraging editors' subjective initiative is an important mechanism for publishing high-quality special issues.

**Keywords:** sci-tech journals; special issues; problem-oriented type; spirit-inherited type; external presentation form design; *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment*

The view that special issues enhance the visibility and influence of sci-tech journals has been widely accepted in the publishing community. Currently, special issue publishing in sci-tech journals is quite active, with main types including problem-oriented, spirit-inherited, and platform-cooperation models. According to statistics by Ma Wenjun et al., among 344 Chinese natural science core journals, 124 journals published 260 special issues in 2021, with problem-oriented special issues accounting for a high proportion (70.8%), spirit-inherited special issues accounting for a moderate proportion (26.9%), and platform-cooperation special issues accounting for a relatively low proportion (5.0%). Problem-oriented special issues focus on reporting and organizing around specific research questions, enabling readers to gain more comprehensive, concentrated, and in-depth understanding of frontier issues or emergent events, thereby attracting excellent manuscripts and highlighting journal characteristics. Spirit-inherited special issues, based on emotional bonds and spiritual identification, celebrate or commemorate historically significant events, university or research institute anniversaries, or birthdays of renowned figures, thereby building scholarly consensus, demonstrating scientific value and humanistic spirit, and achieving value and spiritual inheritance at different levels. Sci-tech journals at various levels attach great importance to special issue planning. For example, *China Journal of Highway and Transport* and *Earth Science Frontiers*, both selected for the “China Excellence in Science and Technology Journals Action Plan,” have published numerous problem-oriented special issues by closely following important industry organizations and major projects and inviting prestigious, influential experts to serve as guest editors or executive editors, leveraging their

reputation and networks for planning and solicitation. *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* has been learning from the successful experiences of first-class sci-tech journals in special issue planning, but most of its planned special issues before 2021 failed to be published or were only published as columns. Since 2021, the editorial office has shifted its planning approach, tapped into its own characteristics, and successfully published nine spirit-inherited special issues around commemorative subjects with strong academic influence. Based on this, this paper evaluates the publication effects of these nine spirit-inherited special issues using statistical data, and combines lessons from failed attempts before 2021 with successful practices since 2021 to provide insights and recommendations for ordinary sci-tech journals to plan and publish high-quality special issues.

## 1 Definition of Ordinary Sci-Tech Journals

First-class sci-tech journals refer to those that can lead the direction of basic or technological innovation and possess sustainable development capabilities. Ordinary sci-tech journals refer to those that currently lack the capacity to become first-class journals or do not aim to become first-class journals in the short term. Specifically, journals selected for the T1 level of the China Association for Science and Technology's field-specific high-quality sci-tech journal classification directory can be categorized as first-class journals, while those not selected for T1 level can be categorized as ordinary journals. Compared with first-class journals, ordinary journals primarily face challenges such as relatively limited influence and visibility, restricted funding for development, and limited human resources. Consequently, ordinary journals encounter greater difficulties in planning special issues than first-class journals and urgently need to explore solicitation strategies suitable for their own development. *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* is a comprehensive Chinese sci-tech journal in geosciences supervised by the Ministry of Education and sponsored by Chang'an University. Founded in 1979 and renamed in 2004, it was first selected for the *Chinese Core Journals Overview* in September 2018, first included in the Dutch Scopus database in 2021, and selected for the T2 level of the geosciences field high-quality journal directory, making it an ordinary journal. By summarizing lessons from failed special issue planning before 2021 and successfully publishing nine spirit-inherited special issues since 2021, *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* has significantly enhanced its academic influence.

## 2 Lessons and Successful Practices of Special Issue Planning at *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment*

Before 2021, *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* attempted to emulate the solicitation strategies of first-class journals by extensively negotiating with academic conference organizers, major project leaders, and prestigious experts to cooperate on problem-oriented special issues. However, the success rate was low, with only one special issue and two columns published: the 2013 Lushan Earthquake column, the 2014 special issue for Academician Tang

Zhongli' s 80th birthday and “Small Intrusions Forming Large Deposits and Breakthroughs in Prospecting Strategy,” and the 2020 electromagnetic exploration column. The low success rate stemmed from three main reasons: first, the journal' s relatively limited academic influence and insufficient ability to attract excellent manuscripts; second, all planned special issues were problem-oriented with overly specific focuses and narrow solicitation scopes, resulting in few high-quality submissions; and third, editors' subjective initiative was not fully utilized. This demonstrates that ordinary journals cannot simply copy the special issue planning strategies of first-class journals but should comprehensively and multi-dimensionally tap into their own characteristics to actively explore suitable high-quality special issue publishing pathways.

Since 2021, *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* has transformed its planning approach, tapped into its own characteristics, and successfully published nine spirit-inherited special issues around commemorative subjects with strong academic influence , establishing a brand personality of “staying true to our original aspiration and inheriting spirit.”

## 2.2 Publication Process, Effects, and Reasons for Success

**2.2.1 Publication Process** For special issues led by the editorial office, the office first drafts a call for papers six months to one year in advance and releases it through the journal website, WeChat public account, and other platforms. It then precisely identifies solicitation targets based on the commemorative subject and invites experts to contribute through one-on-one emails, phone calls, and personal visits. For special issues led by research teams, the aforementioned solicitation work is handled by the research team. Subsequently, the editorial office strictly follows the “three reviews and three proofreads” system for manuscript review, editing, and proofreading, and promptly publishes accepted papers online. The office then timely releases special issue publication updates through the journal website and WeChat public account to attract more expert contributions and enhance dissemination effects. Finally, the editorial office conducts rich external presentation design to fully showcase the special issue theme while optimizing publication format.

**2.2.2 Publication Effects** Author reputation, academic capability, funding status, paper length, and reference count are significantly correlated with journal academic influence. The higher the author reputation, the stronger the author capability, the more national foundation-funded papers, the longer the paper length, and the more references, the higher the journal' s academic influence. Therefore, this study compared and evaluated the publication effects of nine spirit-inherited special issues published by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* from 2021 to 2023 using indicators such as author identity, national foundation-funded paper ratio, citation frequency, download frequency, average pages per paper, and average references per paper . To better compare publication effects, this study selected comparison issues based on four princi-

ples: (1) each comparison consisted of spirit-inherited special issues and other temporally adjacent issues; (2) compared issues had similar publication volumes; (3) compared issues had adjacent publication times; and (4) comparison issues were published earlier than the evaluated spirit-inherited special issues.

As shown in Table 2, all papers with first authors who were academicians came from spirit-inherited special issues. For Comparison 1, the spirit-inherited special issues published in Issues 1-3 of 2021 outperformed Issues 4-6 of 2020 across all indicators. For Comparisons 3, 4, and 5, most indicators of spirit-inherited special issues were significantly better than comparison issues. For Comparison 2, the spirit-inherited special issues published in Issues 2-3 of 2022 were inferior to Issues 5-6 of 2021 and Issue 1 of 2022 in most indicators, particularly citation and download frequencies, primarily because most outstanding papers in Issues 5-6 of 2021 and Issue 1 of 2022 were prepared for the “Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Chang’an University” special issues published in Issues 1-3 of 2021 but missed the publication deadline. However, it should be noted that the spirit-inherited special issues in Issues 2-3 of 2022 still outperformed Issues 4-6 of 2020 in most indicators (the lower average citation frequency is normal given the one-and-a-half-year later publication time). In summary, the spirit-inherited special issues published by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* from 2021 to 2023 significantly enhanced the journal’s academic influence and can be called high-quality special issues, particularly the “Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Chang’an University” special issues (I, II, III) published in Issues 1-3 of 2021, which set a new benchmark for the journal’s academic quality.

**2.2.3 Reasons for Success** The main reasons for the successful publication of these nine special issues are: (1) all published special issues were spirit-inherited types with commemorative subjects having strong academic influence, and many experts enthusiastically contributed due to emotional bonds or spiritual identification; and (2) the solicitation scope of spirit-inherited special issues is generally broader than that of problem-oriented special issues, making it relatively easier for the editorial office to solicit a sufficient number of high-quality manuscripts. Notably, the 2023 special issues commemorating the 20th anniversary of the journal’s name change had the journal itself as the commemorative subject, and their successful publication indirectly proves that the multiple spirit-inherited special issues published by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* from 2021 to 2022 have substantially enhanced the journal’s academic influence.

### 3 Insights and Recommendations

The successful publication of special issues relies on support from major projects, high-quality experts, and high-quality papers. However, the limited nature of these resources means ordinary journals face greater difficulties in planning special issues than first-class journals. The only way for ordinary journals to stand out in special issue planning is to find alternative approaches, avoid direct competition with first-class journals, fully tap into their own characteristics, and

actively explore suitable high-quality special issue publishing pathways.

### **3.1 Planning and Publishing Spirit-Inherited Special Issues Is an Important Pathway to Enhance Academic Influence of Ordinary Sci-Tech Journals**

The most important external factors influencing researchers' journal selection behavior are practical pressures such as graduation, performance evaluation, and professional title promotion. Under the current research evaluation system, publishing in first-class journals better alleviates these pressures. Therefore, compared with ordinary journals, first-class journals relatively more easily attract high-quality manuscripts and hold competitive advantages in special issue planning, allowing their editorial offices to focus on topic selection. Conversely, ordinary journals hold competitive disadvantages and can only attract high-quality manuscripts by focusing on innovative planning, thereby improving special issue publication success rates. The nine successfully published spirit-inherited special issues by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* represent an attempt at innovative planning.

The successful publication of spirit-inherited special issues depends primarily on the academic influence of the commemorative subject, with journal academic influence playing a secondary role. Therefore, selecting commemorative subjects with strong academic influence and close relationships with the journal is crucial for successful publication. Suitable commemorative subjects mainly include the journal's sponsoring organization, research institutions that have had close cooperation with the journal or its sponsor, highly influential editorial board members, and renowned scholars who have emerged from the sponsor's history.

### **3.2 Targeting High-Quality Experts as Key Solicitation Objects Can Improve Contribution Success Rates for Ordinary Journals**

Although journal level is the most concerned factor for researchers when selecting journals under the current evaluation system, different levels of researchers focus on different factors. Based on *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment*'s past solicitation experience and the distribution of first authors' professional titles in published papers, researchers with associate or intermediate professional titles and doctoral students focus most on journal level due to graduation, performance evaluation, and professional title requirements. In contrast, researchers with senior professional titles (especially academicians), while also concerned about journal level, pay great attention to journal reputation, manuscript processing efficiency, review process standardization and fairness, journal service capability, and recognition of solicitation organizers.

From the solicitation process of nine spirit-inherited special issues published by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* from 2021 to 2023, soliciting contributions from high-quality experts closely related to the special issue theme achieved the highest success rate and best manuscript quality. These experts

contributed primarily due to their deep emotional bonds and spiritual identification with the commemorative subject. In summary, ordinary journals should target high-quality experts closely related to the special issue theme as key solicitation objects to improve contribution success rates.

### **3.3 Strict Implementation of the “Three Reviews and Three Proofreads” System Is an Important Guarantee for Publishing High-Quality Special Issues**

The “three reviews and three proofreads” system is an important tool for strengthening publication management and holds significant practical meaning for promoting high-quality journal development. To ensure that special issues’ academic and publication quality meets or exceeds regular issues, editorial offices must strictly implement this system. For example, the “Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Chang’an University” special issue received 66 submissions, and the editorial office strictly implemented the “three reviews and three proofreads” system, ultimately publishing 40 high-quality papers and effectively ensuring the special issue’s academic quality far exceeded that of regular issues.

Some sci-tech journals have innovated the “three reviews and three proofreads” system for special issues. For instance, *Scientia Agricultura Sinica* proposed two review models: journal editor preliminary review + senior expert external review, and guest editor preliminary and final review + peer expert external review, significantly compressing review time. In *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment*’s special issue review practice, the editorial office primarily accelerates review by increasing the number of external reviewers when facing tight publication schedules. Considering the high rejection pressure on guest editors, the editorial office exclusively retains manuscript acceptance authority, thereby reducing interpersonal pressure on guest editors. During special issue manuscript evaluation, the editorial office should promptly inform guest editors about external review status and carefully listen to their professional suggestions. The editorial office should also timely notify guest editors of acceptance or rejection decisions to show respect. When strict implementation of the “three reviews and three proofreads” system results in manuscript rejection or postponement to other issues, the vast majority of authors can understand based on the standardization and fairness of the manuscript processing workflow.

### **3.4 Conducting Rich External Presentation Design Can Enhance Special Issue Dissemination Effects**

The external presentation form of sci-tech journal special issues represents an external extension and expression of brand value, publication purpose, and published papers, mainly including cover design, layout supplementation, and peripheral content innovation. Excellent external presentation helps enhance readers’ recognition of journal service capability, improves contributors’ willingness to submit (especially high-quality experts), expands dissemination scope and depth, and thereby strengthens journal soft power. The nine spirit-inherited

special issues published by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* from 2021 to 2023 featured rich external presentation design. For example, the 2021 “Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Chang’an University” special issues (I, II, III) marked the special issue name on the cover and table of contents, included a preface, marked the special issue name on the upper right corner of each paper’s first page, invited authors to write thematic acknowledgments with genuine emotion, and designed insert pages including anniversary logos, special issue organizer lists, congratulatory messages from 24 academicians and 41 contributing experts, and lists of supporting institutions, creating a more three-dimensional special issue image. Simultaneously, the editorial office released a WeChat article titled “24 Academicians and Over 40 Contributing Experts Celebrate Chang’an University’s 70th Anniversary through *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment*” during the anniversary period, which received over 2,800 views within two days, effectively enhancing journal visibility.

### **3.5 Fully Leveraging Editors’ Subjective Initiative Is an Important Mechanism for Ordinary Journals to Publish High-Quality Special Issues**

The domestic academic and publishing communities have long advocated for involving more experts deeply in sci-tech journal operations, and many first-class journals are forming a new trend of relying on experts for publication. In special issue planning and publishing, expert-led or expert-participated operations have become the norm for first-class journals. However, due to relatively limited academic influence and scarce high-quality expert resources, ordinary journals need to rely more on fully leveraging editors’ subjective initiative in special issue planning and publishing. Editors are the organizers, guides, and implementers of special issues, especially so for ordinary journals. Therefore, fully leveraging editors’ subjective initiative is an important mechanism for ordinary journals to publish high-quality special issues.

First, editors must have the awareness and take action to actively plan special issues. On April 20, 2013, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Lushan County, Ya’an City, Sichuan Province. *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* published a “Lushan Earthquake Column” containing three high-quality papers in Issue 2 of 2013 through editorial strategies including precisely identifying solicitation targets, sincerely communicating with experts, strictly controlling review quality, and accelerating publication and dissemination, greatly enhancing editors’ confidence and capability in planning special issues.

Second, editors must proactively reach out and strengthen interactions with high-quality experts. Ordinary journals’ ability to secure high-quality expert resources is significantly weaker than that of first-class journals, making it even more crucial to actively strengthen interactions with high-quality experts, as these resources are secured through proactive outreach. Many high-quality experts are willing to cooperate with journals when submitting manuscripts or planning special issues because they recognize editors’ excellent work. For ex-

ample, Academician Peng Jianbing' s team and Academician Tang Zhongli' s team from Chang' an University expressed full affirmation of the multiple spirit-inherited special issues published by *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* and respectively organized the “Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of Mr. Liu Guochang' s Birth” special issue (Issue 6, 2022) and the “Celebrating Academician Tang Zhongli' s 70th Anniversary in Geological Work” special issue (Issue 5, 2023).

As a special publication form of sci-tech journals, special issues are effective tools for enhancing academic influence. As an ordinary journal, *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment* has minimized its relatively limited academic influence by focusing on commemorative subjects with strong academic influence, leveraging emotional bonds and spiritual identification, fully mobilizing editors' subjective initiative, targeting high-quality experts closely related to special issue themes as key solicitation objects, strictly implementing the “three reviews and three proofreads” system, and incorporating rich external presentation design to publish nine spirit-inherited special issues since 2021, providing a feasible pathway for ordinary journals to plan and publish high-quality special issues. When planning spirit-inherited special issues, identifying commemorative subjects with strong academic influence is crucial. If editors maintain high sensitivity to historically significant events, university or research institute anniversaries, and birthdays of renowned scholars with inheritance value, sci-tech journals will surely encounter the right commemorative subjects at the right time.

## References

- [1] Cai Fei, Su Lei, Li Shiqiu. Special issues/columns: an important tool for sci-tech journals to secure high-quality manuscripts[J]. *Acta Editologica*, 2018, 30(4): 416-419.
- [2] Ma Wenjun, Cheng Qinjuan. Analysis of publication activity, types, and topic planning of special issues in Chinese sci-tech journals: a survey of 344 natural science Chinese core journals[J]. *Science-Technology and Publication*, 2022(5): 75-81.
- [3] Chen Ximin, Jiang Xin. Discussion on special column construction of Chinese academic journals based on cooperation partners[J]. *Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals*, 2022, 33(3): 345-353.
- [4] Tian Jie, Guo Lijuan, Liu Yuanyuan, et al. Research progress on special issues of academic journals[J]. *Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals*, 2022, 33(2): 222-227.
- [5] Wang Lei, Zhang Weiwei, Ma Yong, et al. Research on measures to enhance academic journal influence: a case study of *China Journal of Highway and Transport*[J]. *Science-Technology and Publication*, 2019(9): 143-147.
- [6] Xu Shurong, Pan Jing. Thematic publication planning of geoscience sci-tech

journals[J]. Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2012, 23(4): 646-650.

[7] Xiao Hong. Four essential capabilities for sprinting toward “world-class sci-tech journals” [J]. Science-Technology and Publication, 2019(10): 29-34.

[8] Liu Biying, Jia Feng, Wu Xiaogeng. Value and development suggestions for ordinary journals under the background of building world-class sci-tech journals[J]. Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2020, 31(4): 375-380.

[9] Jiang Xin, Chen Ximin. Difficulties and countermeasures in special column construction of Chinese academic journals: questionnaire survey analysis of editorial staff[J]. Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2022, 33(11): 1520-1530.

[10] Mu Xiangyu, Gong Kaile, Xie Juan, et al. Study on factors influencing paper citation frequency: taking the domestic library and information science field as an example[J]. Library and Information Knowledge, 2018(4): 43-52.

[11] Wang Haitao, Tan Zongying, Chen Ting. Study on factors influencing paper citation frequency: on the rationality of using citation frequency to evaluate research quality[J]. Studies in Science of Science, 2016, 34(2): 171-177.

[12] Kang Xudong, Xu Qingfu, Zhang Chunbo. Relationship between references and paper citation frequency at journal level: taking condensed matter physics in Web of Science as an example[J]. Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2018, 29(6): 619-626.

[13] Wang Juan. Research on differences in factors influencing researchers' journal selection: based on discipline and professional title dimensions[J]. Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2023, 34(1): 32-38.

[14] Zhang Rui, Gao Tian, Luo Fuyuan, et al. Research on researchers' motivations for journal selection from grounded theory perspective[J]. Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2021, 32(9): 1158-1165.

[15] Ye Xiyan, Chang Zongqiang, Zhang Jinghui. Factors influencing authors' submissions to Chinese sci-tech journals and improvement measures[J]. Chinese Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2018, 29(8): 771-779.

[16] Liu Qingqing, Yang Yang, Ma Wenjun. Strategies for enhancing academic influence of Chinese sci-tech journals under high-quality development background: a case study of *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment*[J]. Today's Mass Media, 2023, 31(9): 10-15.

[17] Wang Shaopeng, Cui Shangong, Qin Xue, et al. Exerting editors' subjective initiative in the “three reviews” process of sci-tech academic journals[J]. Acta Editologica, 2022, 34(6): 653-656.

[18] Yang Xinhao, Li Yunxia, Yue Mei. Practice of special issue publishing in comprehensive journals: a case study of *Scientia Agricultura Sinica*[J]. Chinese

Journal of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 2020, 31(3): 323-330.

[19] Ma Wenjun, Cheng Qinjuan. Connotation, design status, and improvement suggestions for external presentation forms of sci-tech journal special issues: a survey of 344 natural science Chinese core journals[J]. Communication and Copyright, 2023(5): 28-30, 40.

[20] Ma Wenjun, Yang Yang, Liu Qingqing. Editorial strategies for publishing the “Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Chang’an University” special issue in *Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment*[J]. Journal of Earth Sciences and Environment, 2021, 43(3): 632-642.

[21] Chen Yating, Deng Lüxiang. Analysis of editorial operation models of sci-tech journals in China[J]. Acta Editologica, 2022, 34(3): 286-290.

[22] Zhu Yuping, Xiao Xu, Jiang Zhirui. Thoughts on the role and development of ordinary sci-tech journals[J]. Acta Editologica, 2023, 35(4): 384-387.

[23] Su Lei, Cai Fei, Li Mingmin, et al. Capabilities and implementation essentials for academic editors to plan special issues/columns[J]. Acta Editologica, 2020, 32(1): 109-111.

**Author Contributions:** Ma Wenjun: conceptualization, framework design, writing; Yang Yang: literature collection, data analysis, revision; Liu Qingqing: literature collection, data analysis, revision.

*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

*Source: ChinaXiv –Machine translation. Verify with original.*