The *International Journal of Coal Geology* deals with fundamental and applied aspects of the geology and petrology of coal, oil/gas source rocks and shale gas resources. The journal aims to advance the exploration, exploitation and utilization of these resources, and to stimulate environmental awareness as well as advancement of engineering for effective resource management.

The scope of the journal encompasses basic research, laboratory studies and field studies in: Geology, geochemistry, mineralogy, and petrology of coal and coal seams, including studies of modern coal-forming processes and environments; metamorphosis of coal materials in coal seams and dispersed in other rock types; geologic aspects of coal measures; oil- and gas source rock petrology, petrography and petrophysics of coal, coal seams and organic matter-rich shales including mineralogy, inorganic and organic geochemistry, and physical characteristics of these resources; Exploration and development of unconventional resources; formation, transport and storage of gases in coals and shales including coal bed methane, coal mine methane, abandoned mine methane; unconventional petroleum systems (e.g. oil shales, oil sands, tar sands) and ore deposits of rare metals in coal and coal-bearing strata; impacts of coal mining and acid-mine drainage; and end products of coal utilization related to geology and constituents of coal emission reduction and carbon capture and storage; geological aspects of coal fires and underground coal gasification.

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The scope of the journal encompasses basic research, laboratory studies and field studies in:

- Geology, geochemistry, mineralogy, and petrology
- Formation of coal and coal seams, including studies of modern coal-forming processes and environments
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- Exploration and development of unconventional resources
- Formation, transport and storage of gases in coals and shales including coal bed methane, coal mine methane, abandoned mine methane
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- Impacts of coal mining and acid-mine drainage by and end products of coal utilization related to geology and constituents of coal emission reduction and carbon capture and storage
- Geological aspects of coal fires and underground coal gasification

Types of contributions published are: research papers describing original theoretical (with potential for application) and applied research; proceedings of symposia; short contributions; surveys; reviews; book reviews; overviews of recent literature, and letters to the editor. Research papers that combine theory and experiments and/or field studies are especially welcome.

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