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Advances in the Study and Understanding of Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water

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Message from the Guest Editors

Groundwater discharge is often vitally important for maintaining or restoring valuable ecosystems in surface water or at the groundwater-surface-water ecotone. Detecting and quantifying groundwater discharge is challenging, because the rates of flow can be very small, exchange is commonly highly heterogeneous both in space and time, and surface-water hydrodynamics can both influence the exchange and hinder measurements. Fortunately, a wide range of methods have been developed during the last decades, advancing our understanding of how to identify groundwater discharge to surface water, including a better use of seepage meters, application of tracers such as heat or isotopes, and improved groundwater-modelling capabilities. This progress has led to a coalescence in understanding the complex mix of hydrological, biological, and chemical processes that occur at the groundwater-surface-water interface, along with the relevant effects on society. [...]

For further reading, please follow the link to the Special Issue Website at:

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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