The Water Quality Research Journal publishes peer-reviewed, scholarly articles on the following general subject areas:

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- Conservation and protection of aquatic environments
- Responsible resource development and water quality (mining, forestry, hydropower, oil and gas)
- Drinking water, wastewater and stormwater treatment technologies and strategies
- Impacts and solutions of diffuse pollution (urban and agricultural runoff) on water quality
- Industrial water quality
- Used water: Reuse and resource recovery
- Groundwater quality (management, remediation, fracking, legacy contaminants)
- Assessment of surface and subsurface water quality
- Regulations, economics, strategies and policies related to water quality
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- Water quality in remote areas
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