

Report of Chief Editors to the IAVS Council (2017)

Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS) and *Applied Vegetation Science (AVS)* are both doing well. We have a well-functioning team of editorial staff and an established reputation. We are pleased that our journals can serve science, but also that their revenue provides the most important financial support to IAVS.

During the past 12 months, 386 new manuscripts were submitted to JVS and 188 to AVS. This is a slight decrease compared to the previous 12 months (412 and 217 manuscripts, respectively). 120 papers were accepted for JVS and 48 for AVS (previous 12 months 109 and 66, respectively). We want to keep our scope clearly focused on plant community ecology, and our Associate Editors' workload reasonable. Therefore, each new submission is carefully examined by one of the Chief Editors. If necessary, Chief Editors discuss if a submission is within our scope and whether there are problems. Currently Chief Editors reject 38% of all new submissions in JVS, and 45% of all new submissions in AVS. According to recent statistics, none of our editors have handled >12 new manuscripts per year, and most have handled up to 6 new manuscripts.

Impact factor for AVS has been stable during the past years, close to 2.5. Impact factor for JVS has decreased during the last year. In 2013 the IF of JVS reached above 3 (3.4), then peaked with 3.7, but last year it was 3.1. Partly this was due to a single influential paper, partly due to a backlog of accepted papers waiting for the assignment to an issue. Papers in the backlog were available online and were cited. However, the delays for papers appearing in print due to the limited number of pages in each volume annoyed authors and IAVS kindly offered financing support to publish extra pages to get rid of the lengthy backlogs.

Now we do not have an excessive number of accepted papers and there is less time to accumulate citations for IF (but not for science!). Last year we started to post accepted unedited manuscripts at Wiley Online Library. This will make our most recent research readily available and with a DOI our accepted papers can already be cited.

We have made efforts to be more visible in social media. Both journals have Twitter accounts but we need to establish new strategies and routines. We are discussing whether a vegetation science blog might be a reasonable venue to promote our science.

We have decided to adopt one of Wiley's house styles and a standard APA reference style. Having our own style for the journals means that copy editors need to learn it and consequently errors are easily made. Currently Chief Editors have spent some time checking and correcting all issues prior publishing. The new style should be adopted soon, hopefully starting with the next volume. With this change Chief Editors will have more time to work on scientific content and not with commas and colons!

Lately, our contacts with Wiley have been sporadic due to a recent change in the person in charge of our journals at Wiley. We hope that we can soon establish a more smooth collaboration.

We hope that we have met the expectations of IAVS but we are keen to get feedback on our journals.

Meelis Pärtel (Chair of the Editors), with Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý and Valerio Pillar