

## Report of Chief Editors 2015 to IAVS Council

Our journals -- Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS) and Applied Vegetation Science (AVS) – are doing well. We have a very good team of Associate Editors and Editorial Board members. Currently our staff is ca 90 scientists. This allows us to keep the workload reasonable.

We are satisfied with our collaboration with our publisher Wiley-Blackwell. We hope to have tighter communication now when we have a new contact person Adam Wheeler there. Scientific publishing is a dynamic field and together with the publisher we hope to examine current trends.

Submission rate has been quite stable during the past few years: 30-40 papers for JVS and 15-25 for AVS per month. The general quality of papers has slightly increased, therefore Receiving Editors are sending ca 70% of manuscripts to Associate Editors (was ca 50% few years ago).

Last year we got rid of a back log of accepted papers waiting printed publication, but now the flow of appearance of accepted papers in print is normal.. Each month we currently accept ca. 9 papers for JVS (ca 25% of the submitted manuscripts) and 5 papers for AVS (ca 20% of the submitted manuscripts). This is the number of papers we can print according to our page budget. We now monitor the flow of manuscripts carefully to keep the journals running smoothly. If we managed to keep published papers shorter then we could accept more papers in the future. Electronic supplementary material is one option that more and more is being used to present material without expanding printed pages.

JVS/AVS papers have had a reasonable impact to plant community ecology. Our recent JCR Impact Factors are 3.709 for JVS and 2.548 for AVS. This is higher than we have had previously and JVS ranks 31st in Ecology (among 144 journals), 2nd in Forestry (among 65 journals) and 25th in Plant Sciences (among 200 journals). Respective ranks for AVS are 56th, 5th and 52nd. JVS currently scores higher than e.g. *Oecologia*, *Oikos*, *Landscape Ecology* or *Diversity and Distributions*.

Much of our success we owe to our colleague J. Bastow Wilson who passed away recently. He has been the only person who was at our journals from the very beginning, first as an Editorial Board member, then as Associate Editor, and for 15 years as Chief Editor until mid 2013, after which he continued contributing to our journals as Consulting Editor in charge of Commentaries until this spring. We are missing him a lot and trying to do our best to keep and improve the position and reputation that our journals obtained under his leadership.

We thank IAVS for continuous support and we encourage IAVS members to submit their best plant community ecology papers to JVS and AVS.

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