



Report of the IAVS Vice President for Publications: 2015-2016

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1. Publications Committee

The IAVS Publications Committee currently consists of Peter Minchin, Chair (US), Bob Peet (US), Hans Henrik Bruun (DK), Jessica Gurevitch (US), Tomáš Herben (CZ), Michael Manthey (DE), Norman Mason (NZ), Laco Mucina (AU), and Martin Zobel (EE).

2. State of the Journals

Both the *Journal of Vegetation Science* (JVS) and *Applied Vegetation Science* (AVS) continue to do well. Extensive data on circulation and sales, readership, article downloads, content management, and various impact metrics are given in the Publisher's Report, along with information on Wiley's efforts in marketing, platform development, open access publishing, and various other topics.

Availability & Usage

The total number of institutions that purchased a license for JVS and AVS rose from 4,315 in 2014 to 4,920 in 2015, a healthy increase of 14%. The majority of institutions purchased a Wiley license, which gives access to the full range of Wiley titles, rather than a traditional subscription. In addition, there was modest growth in the number of institutions accessing our journals through an EBSCO subscription. Individual ordinary and student subscriptions increased slightly from 550 in 2014 to 559 in 2015 (1.6%).

In 2015, Wiley philanthropic initiatives gave low-cost or free access to JVS and AVS to 5,400 institutions in developing countries. This represents a 3% increase from 2014. We should all be pleased that so many of our colleagues and their students in the developing world have access to our journals that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

Institutional and individual print subscriptions continued to decline in 2015 and the average print run currently stands at approximately 223 copies per issue of JVS and 207 copies per issue of AVS. These numbers are still high enough that Wiley will continue to offer print as an option for at least the next few years. Ultimately IAVS will have to decide when and if we abandon the print option.

Authorship & Readership

Our journals continue to be highly international in both authorship and readership. The 119 articles published in JVS in 2015 had corresponding authors from 29 countries with the largest numbers being from the US (16), France (9), China (8), Spain (8), Australia (7), Brazil (7), Canada (7), and Germany (7). The 73 AVS articles published in 2015 had corresponding authors from 23 countries, with the largest numbers from the US (14), Germany (8), Spain (7), Australia (6), and China (6).

The international nature of our readership is shown by the statistics for article downloads and online traffic by country. The top ten countries for online downloads of JVS in 2015 were US, China, UK, Germany, Brazil, Australia, Canada, France, Spain, and Japan. For AVS, the top ten countries for downloads in 2015 were the US, China, UK, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Spain, and Italy.

Data for the number of article downloads from Wiley Online Library, EBSCO, and other third-party databases, show a 12% decline for JVS, and a 5% decline for AVS. I am not sure of the reasons for this decline but will be following up with Wiley.



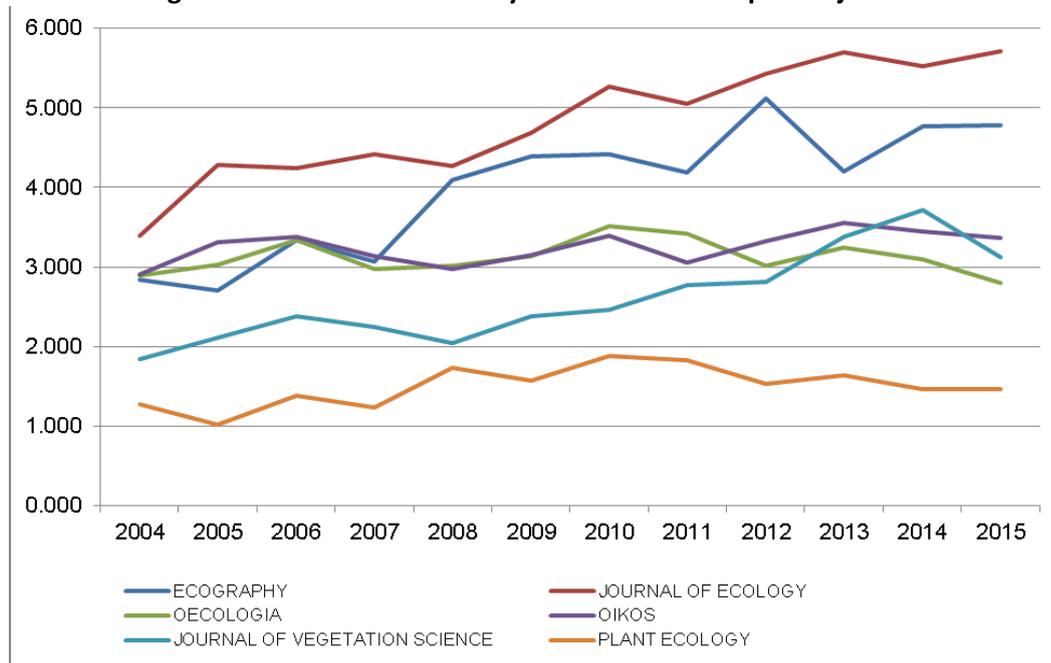
Revenue

Total net revenue received by IAVS from Wiley in 2015 was £103,475, which is about the same as 2014 (£ 103,125). Total net income to IAVS in Euros was €133,483, which is an 8% increase on 2014 (€123,604). The difference between the 2014-2015 trends in Euros and pounds is due mainly to the continuing decline in value of the Euro relative to the pound.

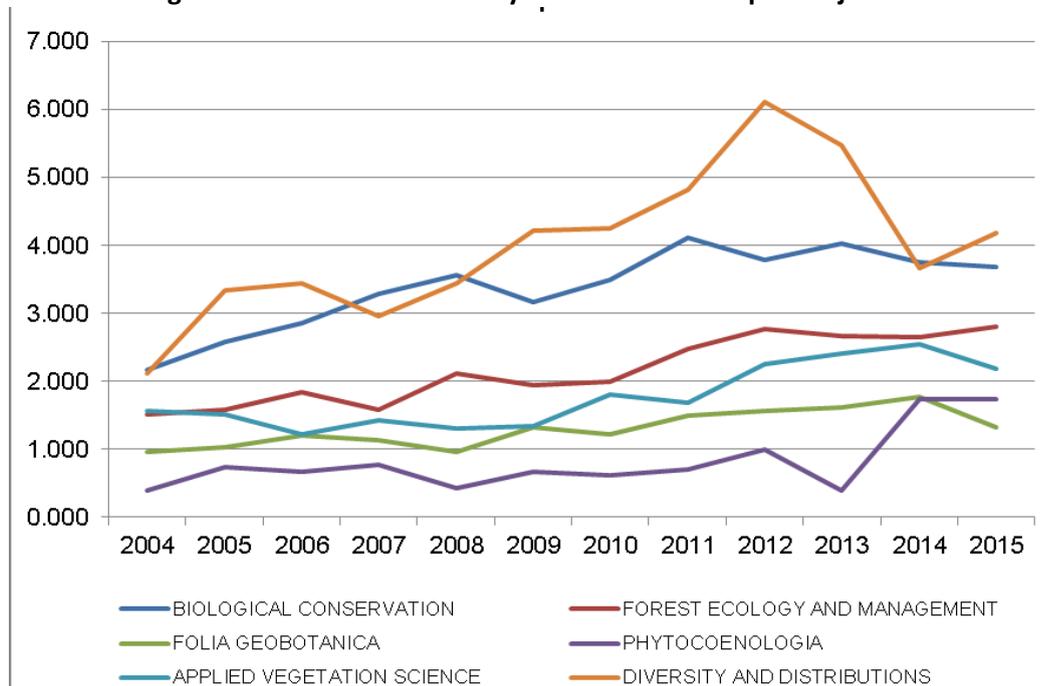
Impact Factor

Impact Factors for 2015 were not yet available when this report was written. They are expected to be released in summer 2016. Based on the available data from Web of Science in May, 2016, Wiley calculated predicted 2-year Impact Factors for both journals in 2015. For JVS, the prediction is 3.117, which is lower than both 2013 (3.372) and 2014 (3.709). The prediction for AVS is 2.184, which would also be a decline from the values in 2013 (2.416) and 2014 (2.548). These predicted dips, if they turn out to be accurate, may simply be random fluctuations. The long-term trend for both journals is increasing (see graphs below).

Journal of Vegetation Science: trend in 2-yr IF relative to competitor journals



Journal of Vegetation Science: trend in 2-yr IF relative to competitor journals





Production time

In the 2015 report from the Vice President for Publications, concern was expressed that the time from receipt of a final manuscript at the publisher to publication in Early View seemed to have increased substantially in 2014, relative to previous years, for both journals. Investigation revealed that this was due to a calculation error: the statistic for 2014 was erroneously computed as the time from acceptance to publication in Early View instead of receipt of a final manuscript at Wiley to Early View. The corrected data for 2014 (see below) show JVS remaining steady at 38 days and AVS increasing only slightly from 40 to 43 days. The data for 2015 show relatively small changes: an increase of two days for JVS and a decline by five days for AVS. In 2015, average days from receipt of a final manuscript to print publication dropped by 67 days for JVS and by 40 days for AVS.

Journal of Vegetation Science

Year	Volume/s	Number of issues	Number of pages	Number of articles	Average days from receipt at Wiley to Early View publication	Average days from receipt at Wiley to print publication
2015	26	6	1234	119	40	153
2014	25	6	1509	145	38	220
2013	24	6	1211	118	38	226
2012	23	6	1197	112	33	182
2011	22	6	1154	104	36	121

Applied Vegetation Science

Year	Volume/s	Number of issues	Number of pages	Number of articles	Average days from receipt at Wiley to Early View publication	Average days from receipt at Wiley to print publication
2015	18	4	738	73	38	163
2014	17	4	796	75	43	203
2013	16	4	716	69	40	218
2012	15	4	607	55	37	185
2011	14	4	606	51	44	153

3. Relationship with Wiley

Wiley Team

Our relationship with Wiley remains excellent. I list here the main staff involved in publication of our journals, with some information about their roles.

Adam Wheeler (adwheeler@wiley.com) - Publisher

Senior role and main point of contact for the Chief Editor, Vice President for Publications and other IAVS committee members. Oversees the overall running of the IAVS titles, including finance, ethics, policy and online product development. Liaises regularly with the Editorial Office, Production and Marketing. Adam reports directly to Vicky Johnson, who is Director for Life Sciences Journals at Wiley. We have an excellent working relationship with Adam. Both the Vice President for Publications and Chief Editor meet regularly with him via Skype.

Daniela Amodeo (damoedeo@wiley.com) - Senior Journals Publishing Assistant

Assists Adam Wheeler in his role as Publisher: creates reports and is responsible for day-to-day updates and administration (e.g., handles financial payments and queries, updates the Journal homepages and other administrative elements). Is also a point of contact in the event that Adam is away from the office.



Mohit Adhikary (madhikary@wiley.com) - Production Editor

Responsible for overseeing the Production process of accepted manuscripts from acceptance to final publication online and in print.

Kerri Johnson - Marketing Manager

Was responsible for all marketing matters related to the journals, including community marketing, conferences and newsletters. Unfortunately, Kerri has just left the company so the current contact for marketing matters is her manager, **Beverley Harnett** (bharnett@wiley.com) until a replacement is appointed.

The following people are not employed by Wiley, but are part of the IAVS journals team.

Karen Russell (jvsci@editorialoffice.co.uk) - JVS and AVS Editorial Office Manager.

Karen is a third party (Editorial Office Limited) appointment.

Stefan Bradham (sbradham@faseb.org) – IAVS Membership and Website Manager

Stefan is employed by our management company, FASEB.

Membership & Renewal Management

After taking over publication of JVS and AVS, Wiley had maintained the membership list for IAVS and handled renewals. Because of numerous problems outlined in the 2015 report from the Vice President for Publications, membership management has now been transferred to our business office at FASEB. Membership can now be renewed through the new IAVS website maintained by FASEB. Early indications are that the system works well.

Renewal of the IAVS contract with Wiley

The initial IAVS contract with Blackwell (now Wiley) was for the five-year period 2009-2013, after which the contract stated that there would be automatic renewal unless one party asked for renegotiation at least 1 year in advance. IAVS informed Wiley of our desire to renegotiate and in 2013, Wiley proposed a new contract for our consideration. The Chief Editors and the Publications Committee reviewed the draft contract in early 2013 and largely approved it. However, discussions within the Governing Board with respect to establishment of the IAVS Business Office and staff turnover at Wiley led to several delays in the final discussions of the contract revision. Meanwhile, following Adam Wheeler's appointment as Publisher, Wiley considered that developments in certain areas (e.g., open access publishing) required further modifications and additions to the draft contract. We now have a new draft contract (version 8.2), which is under consideration by the IAVS Governing Board, the Publications Committee, and the Chief Editors. It is expected that a new contract will be in place soon.

4. Other IAVS-related Publications and Issues

Bulletin

In 2015, Martin Diekmann worked with Stefan Bradham at FASEB to develop a partnership between FASEB and IAVS officers to expedite production of the *Bulletin*. The new arrangements are working well and our new *Bulletin* Editor, Monika Janišová, has already produced two excellent issues in 2016. The *Bulletin* is now e-mailed directly to IAVS members and also made available through the IAVS website.

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

During the 2015 Council meeting in Brno, it was agreed that IAVS should contract with CrossRef, one of the major organizations that assigns and maintains DOIs. IAVS has now joined CrossRef. Our annual membership fee is US\$275. The DOI Prefix assigned to IAVS is 10.21570. Note that DOIs for articles in JVS and AVS are already assigned by Wiley.



Individual fees apply to each DOI assigned and these vary according the type of content and whether it is current content or back content. The general rate for articles (which would include, for example, articles in the *Bulletin*, articles in newsletters or other publications of working groups or abstracts in symposium abstract volumes) is US\$1 per DOI for current content and US\$0.15 per DOI for back content. To obtain a DOI, it is necessary to deposit metadata through the IAVS account on the CrossRef website and this requires knowledge of our username and password and a certain degree of experience and expertise.

There are several issues concerning our use of DOIs that need to be discussed so that approved policies can be put in place and the process of obtaining DOIs for various IAVS publications can proceed in an orderly and managed way. These include the following:

1. Should a single DOI be obtained for each issue or volume of a particular type of content or should we obtain separate DOIs for each article within an issue or volume? For example, for the IAVS *Bulletin*, should we get a single DOI for each issue, or separate DOIs for each article within an issue (or both)? The policy on this may vary among different content types (*Bulletin*, Abstract books from symposia, Newsletters of Working Groups, other publications of Working Groups, etc.).
2. How many years back should we assign DOIs to past content? This will probably vary by content type.
3. What schema should we use to generate consistent DOIs for each type of content? Each DOI must start with 10.21570 but it is up to IAVS to decide what follows that for each content type. For example, an articles in the *Bulletin* might be assigned DOIs with the following structure: 10.21570.IAVSBulletin.IssueX.YYYY.ArticleZ (where X is the issue number, YYYY is the year, and Z is the article number within the issue).
4. Who should be responsible for depositing the metadata for each requested DOI and checking that assignment was successful (various kinds of errors can occur and require resolution)? Should this be someone at FASEB or an IAVS officer or officers? If a FASEB staff member takes over this role, it is possible that FASEB may want to charge IAVS for the additional time and labor involved.

I recommend that the IAVS Publications Committee should consider these issues and any others that may arise and draft a set of recommendations that can then be considered by the IAVS Governing Board and approved by Council over the coming months.