

## **Report of Chief Editors to the IAVS Council (2018)**

*Journal of Vegetation Science* (JVS) and *Applied Vegetation Science* (AVS) are published in regular intervals, having well-established editorial procedures supported by an international team of Associate Editors (AssEds), Editorial Board members, and our publisher Wiley. Besides serving science, both journals are a source of substantial income for the IAVS.

During the past 12 months (June 2017-May 2018), 386 new manuscripts were submitted to JVS and 172 to AVS. This is the same number for JVS as in the previous 12 months and a slight decrease for AVS, which received 188 manuscripts in the previous period. Each manuscript is carefully examined by a Receiving Editor (i.e., one of the Chief Editors), resulting in 37% of immediate rejections for JVS and 39% for AVS. In this way, we save the time of our AssEds and reviewers. Most AssEds handled less than 9 manuscripts in the above-mentioned 12-month period (only one AssEd handled 9, one 10, and one 13).

Impact factor (IF) for AVS has been stable over the last five years (2013-2017), slightly oscillating between 2.3 and 2.6. IF for JVS reached a peak of 3.7 in 2014, having decreased afterwards to the current value of 2.7, which corresponds to the level the journal had before 2013. It is possible that the higher IF for JVS around 2014 was partly due to the backlog of papers published online but waiting for a long time for assignment to an issue. This situation was not appreciated by the authors of the queueing papers, but at the same time, these papers received more citations that counted for IF. IAVS helped to remove this backlog by paying for larger issues in 2014, which may have caused the return of IF to the pre-2014 levels. In any case, the primary way of increasing our IFs in the future must be attracting high-quality papers. We need to discuss an appropriate strategy within our editorial team, with the IAVS Governing Board and other members of the IAVS.

One way how to make our journals more visible is an appropriate use of social media. We announce new journal issues and other editorial news via the journal Twitter accounts and the IAVS Facebook group. However, we feel we need to be more active in social media. After preliminary discussions with our AssEd David Zelený, we decided to prepare a blog of IAVS journals. David prepared basic ideas for the blog and an electronic platform, which will be discussed at the Editorial Meeting in Bozeman and launched afterwards.

Starting from the first issues of 2018 both journals have adopted one of Wiley's house styles and APA 6 reference style. To reflect this change, we prepared entirely new Author Guidelines, which are better structured than the previous ones. In March 2018, the websites of both journals were migrated to the new Atypon platform provided by Wiley. In association with this change, we made a revision and update of the content of our web pages. Some requested changes, however, are not yet visible on the pages, waiting for the availability of Wiley webmasters. Apart from many changes in the visual style and structure of the pages, we now publish also the inside and outside journal cover as a PDF document in the table of contents of each journal issue.

We will be happy for any feedback on our work from IAVS members.

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