

Report of Chief Editors to the IAVS Council (2019)

Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS) and *Applied Vegetation Science* (AVS) are published in regular bimonthly (JVS) and quarterly (AVS) intervals thanks to dedicated work of our international team of Associate Editors and Editorial Board members, and the Editorial Office and Production run by Wiley. Both journals not only advance theory and applications of vegetation science, but also generate a substantial income for the IAVS.

After a decrease in 2018, the impact factor (IF) increased in 2019 for both journals: from 2.658 to 2.944 for JVS and from 2.331 to 3.568 for AVS. JVS is in the first quartile in the fields Plant Sciences and Forestry, and in the second quartile in Ecology. AVS is in the first quartile in all three fields. The IF of AVS is the highest ever, and for the first time, AVS has a higher IF than JVS. However, this is to a large extent due to a high citation rate of the paper Mucina et al. (2016) *Vegetation of Europe*, therefore we expect that in 2020 when this paper will no longer be counted for the IF calculation, the IF of AVS will decrease again below 3.0.

Many changes have happened in our cooperation with Wiley. Since September 2018, Wiley assigned the new Publishing Manager, Carol Clark, to the IAVS journals. This change was very positive, resulting in a dramatic improvement in our communication with the publisher. On 14 December 2018, the four Chief Editors and the IAVS Publication Officer Peter Minchin participated in a Strategy Day in Wiley's office in Oxford. We discussed various strategies for further development of the journals with Wiley staff, considering the current tendency in the publication business of shifting from the traditional subscription-based funding model to the open-access model. The IAVS Governing Board was informed about Wiley's ideas related to the funding model, but no decision has been made, i.e. both journals continue to be published under the subscription-based model. We also discussed various potential ways to improve our editorial process using new technologies and optimizations of the editorial workflow. A major change resulting from the discussions at the Strategy Day has been the transfer (from March 2019) of the JVS/AVS Editorial Office from the outsourced company Editorial Office Ltd directly to the Wiley office. Our former Editorial Assistant Karen Mitchell at the Editorial Office Ltd was replaced by Sarah Bremner based in Oxford. Following this change, we considerably revised our decision letter templates and general manuscript handling workflow to make more use of the automatic procedures available in the Scholar One system, with the goal of achieving faster manuscript handling. Due to the complexity of these changes, we are still working on the adjustments of some specific procedures.

In the last two years, both journals were published slightly behind their regular publication schedules, partly due to delays in Production, partly due to sometimes insufficient number of accepted papers to fill in the issue. We agreed with Wiley that we need to return to the regular publishing schedule. We achieved this goal with the July 2019 issues of both journals, but at the cost of publishing slightly thinner issues.

The JVS/AVS Blog was launched in August 2018. It is edited by David Zelený, assisted by Viktoria Wagner and Peter Minchin. The option of publishing a Plain Language Summary or a Behind the Paper contribution related to the accepted papers became quite popular among the JVS/AVS authors. Within 10 months of the existence of the blog, the authors of accepted papers published 18 Plain Language Summaries, five Behind the Paper contributions, and one Book Review. We also use the blog for announcing Editorial News, especially the appearance of new issues, but also information about Editorial Meetings and Editors' Awards. We also use Twitter accounts of both journals and the IAVS Facebook group to disseminate topical information about the journals.

We welcome any feedback on our work from the IAVS members.

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