

**Report by the
Publication Officer of the International Association for Vegetation Science**
for the year 2005

to the Advisory Council of IAVS, December 2006

This report is concerned with the publication activities of the IAVS in 2005, mainly relating to the two journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. Further information on the journals is given in the Report of the chair of the chief editors of the journals.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Journal of Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E
2004	368	18	17	607	28	13
2005	240	12	23	369	130	33

In addition, there are 14 free and 3 not yet renewed library subscriptions of *JVS*, as well as 64 free and 80 not yet renewed private subscriptions.

The number of both institutional and private subscribers to *JVS* in 2005 has been considerably lower than for the preceding. This is mainly caused by a “cleaning” of the lists of subscribers, i.e. a removal from the list of those libraries/persons that had not paid their fees for several years. However, there is also a true decline in the number of subscriptions, which for the libraries is somewhat counteracted by the growing number of institutions that have access to the journal(s) via BioOne. Another obvious trend regarding the private users is the predicted rapidly growing number of subscriptions to the electronic or combined paper & electronic versions of the journal.

Applied Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E
2004	86	4	8	319	4	8
2005	90	5	9	240	94	23

In addition, there are 11 free and 2 not yet renewed library subscriptions of *AVS*, as well as 37 free and 18 not yet renewed private subscriptions.

Although there has also been a “cleaning” for *AVS*, the trend in the number of subscriptions is different from *JVS*. The number of both institutional and private subscribers in 2005 is somewhat higher than in 2004, which is most likely a continuing effect of the inclusion of *AVS* in *Current Contents* and in the *Science Citation Index* already observed the year before.

IMPACT FACTORS

	2002	2003	2004	2005
<i>JVS</i>	1,57	1,67	1,85	2,11
<i>AVS</i>		0,88	1,57	1,52

The impact factors for *JVS* have slowly increased until 2004, and this trend has continued in 2005 with an *IF* of 2,11; the *IF* of the journal has thus exceeded 2 for the first time. This underlines the journal's position among the top journals in the fields of *ecology* and *evolutionary science*. However, it must be mentioned that also most other comparable journals in these fields had higher *IF* in 2005 than in the years before, and that the increase observed in these journals has been even more dramatic than for *JVS*, meaning that the relative position of *JVS* has not improved.

The *IF* for *AVS* in 2005 was almost the same as for 2004, but much higher than for 2003, again a continuing effect of the inclusion of the journal in the *Science Citation Index*.

An initiative of Eddy van der Maarel resulted in the revival of the adoption committee which has led to an agreement between IAVS and OPULUS Press about new adoptions. In 2005, 27 private members of the IAVS received adopted electronic subscriptions of both *JVS* and *AVS*. For further information, see the special report in this Bulletin.

SUBMISSIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS TO *JVS* AND *AVS*

In 2004, the number of submitted manuscripts to *JVS* was 311, which is exactly the same figure as for 2004 and somewhat higher than for 2003. The number of manuscripts accepted during the period Jan-Dec 2005 was 62, which is higher than the corresponding figure for 2004.

The number of submitted manuscripts to *AVS* in 2005 was 123, compared to only 81 in 2004. This again reflects the increasing attractiveness of *AVS* as an applied ecological journal. The number of accepted manuscripts during the period Jan-Dec 2005 was 21 and has remained unchanged compared to 2004.

For more detailed information, see the Report of the chair of the chief editors of the journals.

PRINTED PAPERS, REJECTION RATES AND PUBLICATION QUEUE

Journal of Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of Pages	No. of research papers (+ forum papers, editorials, short communications, etc.)
February 2004	142	17 (+ 1)
April 2004	152	16
June 2004	142	17
August 2004	146	14 (+ 4)
October 2004	138	14
December 2004	136	14 (+ 2)
Sum 2004	856	92 (+ 7)
February 2005	144	15 (+ 1)
April 2005	116	13 (+ 2)
June 2005	102	8 (+ 3)
August 2005	124	14
October 2005	126	13
December 2005	116	11 (+ 2)
Sum 2005	728	74 (+ 8)

The number of papers published in *JVS* has been around 90 or slightly >90 in most years, while it has been considerably lower in 2005, accompanied by a lower total number of pages that year (and a stable average number of pages per research paper of 9 to 10). As the number of submitted manuscripts to *JVS* has tended to increase from year to year, the reason for the thinner issues (except for the February issue) in 2005 is not a shortage of submitted manuscripts, but a low number of accepted manuscripts especially in 2004, in other words an

exceptionally high rejection rate of about 70%. As the cue of accepted papers / papers in print at the same time was short, there was a lack of papers to fill the *JVS* issues in question. This was very unfortunate, but it shall be mentioned that the situation has changed again so that from April 2006 on the issues are back at normal size (about 140 pages).

Applied Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of Pages	No. of research papers (+ forum papers, editorials, short communications, etc.)
May 2004	150	16
November 2004	126	14 (+ 1)
Sum 2004	276	30 (+ 1)
May 2005	114	12 (+ 1)
November 2005	104	11
Sum 2005	218	23 (+ 1)

The situation is similar for *AVS* which has been published with considerably thinner issues in 2005 compared to 2004. Also here, the reason was a rather high rejection rate of manuscripts. In general, despite high rejection rates, the increasing number of submissions to *AVS* will sooner or later result in a situation where the number of accepted manuscripts exceeds the space being available in two issues per year. A possible solution is the future publication of three issues of *AVS* per year. This would also shorten the average time span between acceptance of an *AVS* paper and its publication.

The problems seen under 2005 especially for *JVS* show the potential risk of having a very short publication queue, otherwise a desirable feature of a journal. However, a short manuscript handling time and publication queue are important aspects of a successful journal.

VISIBILITY OF THE JOURNALS

JVS and *AVS* are included in the BioOne aggregation since 2002. In 2004, there has for the first time been a considerable income to OPULUS Press by revenues from BioOne. In 2005, revenues from BioOne have more than doubled and the trend is continuously positive.

As already mentioned in the previous Bulletin, *JVS* and *AVS* are now part of the JSTOR package, meaning that all papers from the two journals (except for those from the last 5 years) are available as PDF-files that can be printed and downloaded through libraries subscribing to the JSTOR package.

As a result of an improved website of OPULUS Press, the number of visitors to the homepage increases steadily, which is accompanied by a positive trend in single article sales directly from the OPULUS website.

IAVS BULLETINS

The IAVS Bulletin No. 9 was published in 2006. The newsletter includes the laudatios for the new honorary members (Hartmut Dierschke, Eddy van der Maarel and Salvador Rivas-Martínez), the minutes of the IAVS Council meeting in Lisbon in 2005, the minutes of the General Assembly in Lisbon in 2005, the Reports by the IAVS Publication Officer and by the Chair of the Editors of *JVS* & *AVS*, as well as some reports by representatives of working groups and Regional sections. The Bulletin finishes with an outlook on forthcoming IAVS symposia and memorial notes for Paddy Coker and Emilie Balátová-Tuláčková.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenues to OPULUS Press include subscriptions income, royalty fees from EBSCO and BioOne, as well as single article sales from the *opuluspress.se* website. Revenues from

BioOne over 2005 totalled 25500 US\$ after deduction of the costs made by Allen Press to prepare the data for inclusion in the BioOne data base. Total revenues amounted to 2.321.878 Swedish crowns, which is slightly higher than in the two preceding years.

The costs to the publisher (production of the journals, salaries and personnel costs, other costs) in 2005 were 2.394.080 Swedish crowns and thus considerably higher than for year 2004. One reason for this is the investments made for a new online manuscript handling system, but also for the improved online service to IAVS members. The predicted costs for the next years are therefore lower.

As there was no net profit for 2005, there has been no income via the publisher to the Global fund or to IAVS.