

Report of the IAVS Publications Officer: 2011-2012

1. State of the Journals

The IAVS journals are doing very well as judged by nearly any metric. Here I summarize some of the most important of these.

Online Readership

Full text downloads for *Applied Vegetation Science* increased from 14,345 in 2009 and 28,812 in 2010 to 44,741 in 2011.

Full text downloads for *Journal of Vegetation Science* increased from 72,916 in 2009 and 139,378 in 2010 to 187,666 in 2011.

Impact Factor

Applied Vegetation Science's Impact Factor for 2011 is 1.678, down from 1.802 for 2010 but up from 1.349 for 2009.

Journal of Vegetation Science's Impact Factor for 2011 is 2.770, up from 2.457 for 2010 and 2.376 for 2009.

Production time

Times from receipt of a final manuscript at the publisher to publication in (1) early view, (2) the online issue, and (3) the print issue have steadily improved over the last two years and are now very competitive with other journals (see below for details).

Applied Vegetation Science

Year	Volume	No. of issues	No. of pages	No. of articles	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to EarlyView publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to online issue publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to print publication
2011	14	4	606	51	44	147	153
2010	13	4	546	48	45	175	179
2009	12	4	516	45	72	120	132

Journal of Vegetation Science

Year	Volume	No. of issues	No. of pages	No. of articles	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to EarlyView publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to online issue publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to print publication
2011	22	6	1154	104	36	111	121
2010	21	6	1186	104	40	117	123
2009	20	6	1192	114	109	130	140

Revenue

Revenue received by IAVS from Wiley-Blackwell has remained strong with receipts of 113,512€ in 2010 and 114,975€ in 2011. If current trends continue IAVS should receive approximately 140,000€ for 2012.

Reaching new and developing markets

Applied Vegetation Science and *Journal of Vegetation Science* are now available in 5,978 institutions in the developing world.

2. Deliberations of the Publications Committee

The IAVS Publications Committee consists of Robert Peet, Chair (US), Helge Bruelheide (DE), Hans Henrik Bruun (DK), Jessica Gurevitch (US), Tomáš Herben (CZ), Michael Manthey (DE), Bastow Wilson (NZ), and Martin Zobel (EE).

The Committee met once by Skype (February 2012) and exchanged considerable email. Below I summarize a few of our primary topics of deliberation.

The IAVS Bulletin

The committee agrees with continued digital publication of the *Bulletin* and feels that initially there should be two issues per year, though if there is sufficient content available more issues would be fine. One issue should be released shortly after the annual meeting to report the events at the meeting including the minutes of the Council meeting and the minutes of the General Assembly. Another issue should appear approximately 4-5 months prior to the annual meeting to advertise that event.

The role of the *Bulletin* was discussed. At present, it primarily serves as a home for permanent records about the Association, such as minutes of meetings and reports of Committees, Working Groups and Sections. However, these roles could be served equally well by the IAVS website. The more important role of the *Bulletin* is to keep the membership engaged and aware of IAVS by promoting communication and by keeping the membership informed. To succeed in this role it will be important to identify a person (or persons) to serve as Editor with this being his/her/their primary role within IAVS.

Types of content that could be added were discussed. The usual candidates were mentioned, such as included essays and obituaries. It was suggested that if there were a means for posting comments on a topic or content (rather like digital newspapers now often include), this could increase interest, though such comments would need to be moderated. Another suggestion was to feature perhaps two or three research groups each issue (perhaps a half page of text and a photo for each). These could also be linked separately from a place on our homepage, and groups could be allowed to update their postings.

IAVS Book Series

During the IAVS meeting in Lyon there were organized discussions about a possible IAVS book series. Several publishers expressed an interest in publishing such a series. Laco Mucina was charged by the Governing Board with exploring options. In December he submitted a formal proposal, which the Governing Board referred to the Publications Committee.

The Committee is enthusiastic about the proposed book series. There might be a large market for books or manuals containing methods, protocols and best practices for postgraduate students and for practitioners in the conservation and management communities. Topics might primarily focus on sampling and monitoring of vegetation environment. The Committee advised the Governing Board to move ahead with the proposal and to encourage Mucina to take next steps, both in contacting publishers and in recruiting possible volume authors/editors. Management was discussed and the Committee favors an Editor-in-Chief (initially Laco) who would be the primary leader and promoter, but who would work with a small Advisory Board whose members would share in making the key decisions. Final negotiations with publishers would need to involve the Publications Committee and/or the Governing Board.

Plan for review of the journals and the Chief Editors

IAVS Bylaw 5.6 reads “The Publications Committee shall oversee the publications of the Association. The Chair of the Committee shall be the Publications Officer and shall be one of the Vice Presidents. The Chair shall be responsible for interactions with the Chief Editors and with the publisher. The Committee shall review and approve proposals from the Chief Editors for major changes in the structure and content of the journals, and shall be responsible for a recurring 4-year review of the Chief Editors. The Committee shall advise the Council on reappointment of Chief Editors and evaluate candidates to fill vacancies among the Chief Editors. The Chief Editors shall select from among themselves a representative to serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Committee, except during evaluations of Chief Editors.”

The review process for the four-year review of the journals and the Chief Editors was discussed. As the last review was conducted in 2009, we anticipate that this will next be undertaken in late 2013 or early 2014. The Committee needs to prepare a brief document that describes the process and which can be reviewed and discussed by Council in 2013 and subsequently implemented by the Governing Board. One complication for implementation is that several members of the Publications Committee are involved in the editing of the journals. It will be necessary to identify a small set of persons without such conflicts of interest to conduct the review, and selection of this group will need to be done in consultation with the Governing Board. It would be best if the results of the review could be discussed in person with the Chief Editors at the annual meeting in Perth in 2014.

Review of the IAVS contract with Wiley-Blackwell

The initial IAVS contract with Blackwell was for 2009-2013, after which there is automatic renewal unless one party asks for renegotiation at least 1 year in advance. The Committee felt that both the Committee and the Governing Board should review the currently contract during 2012 and decide whether there are any important changes we would like to have in place by January 2014. The Publications Officer brought this matter up with our representatives at Wiley-Blackwell and they will prepare a proposed new contract for our consideration. They anticipate having this completed by the end of August. Meanwhile, the Committee solicits suggestions as to changes that might be needed in an updated contract. All such suggestions should be addressed to the Publications Officer and should be received by the end of August.

Respectfully submitted, July 11, 2012

Robert K. Peet, IAVS Publication Officer