

# Report of the IAVS Publications Officer: 2012-2013

## 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.

### Availability

*Applied Vegetation Science* and *Journal of Vegetation Science* are available in over 4,000 institutions worldwide via the Wiley Blackwell license. Subscriptions to the *Applied Vegetation Science* and *Journal of Vegetation Science* package renewed at 94%. *Applied Vegetation Science* and *Journal of Vegetation Science* are now available in over 5,000 institutions in the developing world via philanthropic initiatives

### Online Readership

Full text downloads for *Applied Vegetation Science* continues to increase dramatically: 14,345 in 2009; 28,812 in 2010; 44,741 in 2011; 52,738 in 2012..

Full text downloads for *Journal of Vegetation Science* also continues to increase dramatically: 72,916 in 2009; 139,378 in 2010; 187,666 in 2011; 208,338 in 2012..

### Production time

Times from receipt of a final manuscript at the publisher to publication in early view has steadily improved and are now very competitive with other journals. However, we are developing a bit of a backlog in time to print. We need to address the backlog by either reducing the acceptance rate or increasing the number of pages published.,

#### *Applied Vegetation Science*

Year	Vol: Issue	No of Issues	Number of pages	Number of articles	Average days from receipt at WB to EarlyView pub	Average days from receipt at WB to online issue pub	Average days from receipt at WB to print pub
2012	15	4	607	55	37	182	185
2011	14	4	606	51	44	147	153
2010	13	4	546	48	45	175	179

#### *Journal of Vegetation Science*

Year	Vol: Issue	No of Issues	Number of pages	Number of articles	Average days from receipt at WB to EarlyView pub	Average days from receipt at WB to online issue pub	Average days from receipt at WB to print pub
2012	23	6	1197	112	33	179	182
2011	22	6	1154	104	36	111	121
2010	21	6	1186	104	40	117	123

### Revenue

Revenue received by IAVS from Wiley-Blackwell has remained strong with receipts of 113,512€ for 2010, 114,975€ for 2011, and 115,896€ for 2012. We anticipate a modest increase for 2013.

## **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 2013) and exchanged considerable email. Below I summarize two of our primary topics of deliberation.

### **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 in the 2012 meeting of the Publications Committee. 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. 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 13 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 proposed new contract for our consideration. The Chief Editors and the Publications Committee reviewed the contract during January and February 2013. However, the discussions within the Governing Board with respect to establishment of an IAVS Business Office led to a delay in the final discussions of the contract revision as decisions with respect to the business office could have major implications for the details of the publication contract. We anticipate a new contract will be distributed to the Council for review within 6 months.

**Respectfully submitted, June 17, 2013**

**Robert K. Peet, IAVS Publication Officer**