

Appendix 7. Reports of the Publication Officer

International Association for Vegetation Science
Publication Officer

15 February 2002

To the Advisory Council of IAVS

This is the report of the IAVS- Publication Officer over the period July-December 2001. It deals with some aspects of the journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*, IAVS Global Fund and some miscellaneous items. Figures on subscriptions are the same as in the Report over 1999-2000 I presented for the Council meeting and General Assembly in Freising. They refer to the situation on 2001-06-01. It is difficult to present new figures because new subscribers for 2002 have not been taken into account while subscribers terminating their subscriptions are not all known yet.

1. Administrative information

1a. *Journal of Vegetation Science*

Member-subscribers 2001-06-01 (including free editorial board, adoptees): 872

which is somewhat less than the number mentioned in the previous report. See however point 1d.

Of these 872 subscribers, 25 take only the electronic version and 5 the combination of paper and electronic versions.

The number of library subscriptions is 425

which is clearly more than last year. Two of these libraries take the electronic version.

Comment: the number of *JVS*-subscribers seems to be about constant.

1b. *Applied Vegetation Science*:

Members-subscribers: 481

which is more than last year. Of these 11 take the electronic version only and 3 take both.

By far most of the *AVS*-subscribers also take *JVS*.

The number of library subscriptions is 99

which is more than last year.

Comment: the number of *AVS*-subscribers seems to increase further and will now probably be > 500. Ca. 20% are "AVS-only" subscribers

1c. Membership

As per May 2001 there are 1644 members.

This means a considerable decrease since last year. The simple reason for this decrease is that many members who had not paid for years have been removed from the list, both those taking a journal and those not doing so. See also 1d. A new membership list was completed, presented at the Freising symposium and later on sent to all members. The number of members is now rising again. E-mail addresses of 70% of the members are known to us.

2. On the journals

There are now four Editors who serve both *JVS* and *AVS*. The Council confirmed the nomination of Jan P. Bakker as new Editor after Ladislav Mucina. Bastow Wilson acts as Chairperson. The number of Associate Editors was further increased in 2001 in order to improve the procedure of manuscript review and decision about acceptance or rejection. On the other hand Associate Editors Julie Denslow and Deborah Goldberg (*JVS*) and Trudy Watt (*AVS*) resigned. We thank them very much for their important work for the journals. Finally, Robert K. Peet, former Editor of *JVS*, was nominated as the second Consulting Editor, along with Eddy van der Maarel. The following Editors and Associate Editors are serving the journals:

| <u>Editors:</u> | <i>JVS</i> | <i>AVS</i> | | <i>JVS</i> | <i>AVS</i> |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Jan P. Bakker | x | x | Jari Oksanen | x | x |
| Peter S. White | x | x | Bastow Wilson (Chair person) | x | x |

Associate Editors:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|----------------------|---|---|
| Helge Bruelheide | x | | Alessandro Chiarucci | x | |
| Beverly Collins | x | | Sandra Díaz | x | |
| Exequiel Ezcurra | x | | Janet Franklin | x | x |

| | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| Paul Harcombe | x | | Norm Kenkel | x |
| Jan Lepš | x | | Christoph Leuschner | x |
| Rob Marrs | x | x | Rune Økland | x |
| Jörg Pfadenhauer | | x | Valerio de Patta Pillar | x |
| Jill Rapson | x | | Christina Skarpe | x |
| Kerry Woods | x | | | |

In addition to the Book Review Editor there will be a Review Editor for 'reviews of digital products for vegetation scientists', i.e. packages of computer programs and large data bases. The first colleague in this position is Michael W. Palmer, a former Associate Editor of *JVS*.

The members of the Editorial Boards change regularly because most members serve only one or two terms. Several changes are under way. Bastow Wilson is preparing a presentation of editors and editorial personnel which will be put on the website of Opulus Press.

An electronic system for handling manuscripts is under preparation. The final step of this system, the announcement of accepted papers on the website of Opulus Press, is already in use.

Both *JVS* and *AVS* are now available in electronic form for reasonable prices. The number of electronic subscriptions is still low, but is expected to rise steadily.

Considering the number of submitted manuscripts, 230 in 2002 against 200 in 2001 and 180 in 2000, *JVS* is still growing in popularity. This is certainly related to the high impact factor the journal has. The number of papers published in 2002 was 92 with an average size of 9.7 pp. In 2001 98 papers were published with an average size of 9.5 pp.

This means that the rejection rate is roughly 55% with a trend towards 60%. After we had some delay in publication during the winter of 2000/2001, at the moment papers are published soon after acceptance. For the papers in issue 12-4 the time between acceptance and publication was 5 months, for 12-5 4.5 m, for 12-6 3.7 m and for issue 13-1 it will be less than 3 m. The time between submission and acceptance varies considerably – and has always done so. The average for the last few years roughly 12 m, but the papers in the recent issue 12-6 were accepted only 9 m after submission. We may conclude that both the increase in the number of Associate Editors and the continuous stimulation by the present Chairperson Bastow Wilson are effective!

Further recent initiatives to increase the attraction of *JVS* include the activation of the Forum section, which has an own Editor now, and the solicitation of Guest Editorials.

The situation around *AVS* is stable. The interest in publishing in the journal is not growing, which has no doubt to do with the delay in accepting the journal for Current Contents and the Science Citation Index.

3. The adoption system

IAVS has a Global Fund (GF) and an Adoption Committee that has, unofficially, functioned since the beginning of *JVS*. Since the Bilbao meeting the Committee has the following members: the IAVS-Publication Officer as secretary, the IAVS-Secretary, Treasurer and Administrator, and the IAVS-members Michael W. Palmer and Tomáš Herben. Since 1996 the number of adopted colleagues has been around 40. Adoptions go to Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

I have not been active in changing the list of adoptees, mainly while waiting for the transfer of the money from an account in Marijke van der Maarel's name to an account of IAVS. This account can now soon be opened in The Netherlands (see 5b). From 2002 onwards the standard adoption will concern an electronic subscription. So far adoptions have been to *JVS* (with one exception). We will now also include *AVS* in the adoption system. I am in touch with Opulus Press for establishing an amount that has to be paid from GF to Opulus for each adopted electronic subscription. Present adoptees are being sent a letter of explanation with an application form for continued subscription.

The financial situation of GF is somewhat unclear because we still have to level incoming and outgoing amounts with Opulus, which is pending on the opening of a special IAVS account. By the end of 2001 there is ca. 57000 SEK on the GF account.

4. Relation IAVS - Opulus Press

The financial report over 2001 to be presented by Opulus is not yet ready. It can only be released after the accountants have checked the entire administration, which usually takes place in May or June. The prices for 2002 for both journals will be the same as for 2001.

It was decided in Freising that the second edition of the Agreement between IAVS and Opulus Press will include 2003 and that a new agreement will be prepared. This agreement is now ready in draft and will be submitted. Contrary to the information I presented in my previous report there exists already an agreement concerning *AVS*. Only, this agreement has to be renewed as well, which has been done now. Partly because of the large amount of extra work I had to spend on the Statutes and the Bulletin and work in relation to the illness of our Secretary, I could

not complete this work early enough to await comments. I therefore propose to discuss both drafts during the Porto Alegre meeting, but also to ask the Council members and Editor Wilson to present comments. Then I will prepare final versions soon after the meeting and have the agreements signed by IAVS officials and Opulus.

5. Miscellaneous items

5a. Current Contents, Science Citation Index.

In November 2001 I wrote again to the Institute of Scientific Information in order to get *AVS* accepted for Current Contents and the Science Citation Index. This letter was not answered; even its receipt was not confirmed. An E-mail with a reminder was sent on 13 February 2002; its receipt was not confirmed either.

5b. Registration of IAVS.

After the Dutch version of the Statutes of IAVS was adapted to Dutch law and society rules and finally accepted by the Dutch Notary in December 2001, the application for registration of IAVS at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce was delivered in December 2001 and registered shortly thereafter. At last IAVS has received legal status! Now we can, among other things, open a bank account for IAVS Global Fund and prepare payments of membership fees with Credit Cards.

5c. IAVS-Bulletin

Issue 6 of the Bulletin was, as usual, prepared by the Secretary, edited by the Publication Officer and technically edited by the Technical Editor of *JVS*, Marijke van der Maarel. Unfortunately its publication was seriously delayed, largely beyond my responsibility.

The Bulletin contained, i.a., the new Statutes of IAVS which I finalized on the basis of the version discussed and accepted in Freising, with minor adjustments to the final Dutch version (see 5b).

5d. SPARC

The negotiations with SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition, have resulted in a Memorandum of understanding between the Association of Research Libraries, the organization running SPARC, Opulus Press and IAVS regarding support of *JVS*. I signed the Agreement on behalf of IAVS.

One of the benefits of this agreement is that all libraries supporting SPARC will promise to enter a subscription to *JVS*.

5e. BioOne.

BioOne 'will provide uniquely integrated, cost-effective access to a thoroughly hyperlinked information resource focused on biological, ecological and environmental sciences'. Electronic versions of BioOne journals, basically journals published by small publishing houses and societies, are offered as a package to research libraries as a complement to the journal packages offered by the big commercial publishers. BioOne is supported by SPARC, which makes it all the more interesting to join it. *JVS* and *AVS* have been accepted by the BioOne organization and Opulus Press has found solutions for several practical problems included in joining the organization so that the journals will probably be added to the BioOne aggregation in the course of 2002.

Respectfully submitted

Eddy van der Maarel