

**Short report by the
Publication Officer of the International Association for Vegetation Science**
for the year 2007

to the Advisory Council of the IAVS, September 2008

This report is concerned with the publication activities of the IAVS in 2007, mainly relating to the two journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Journal of Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E
2006	267	19	28	303	106	58
2007	274	46	24	226	221	66

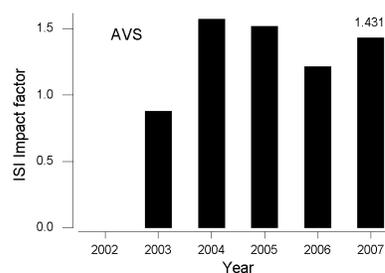
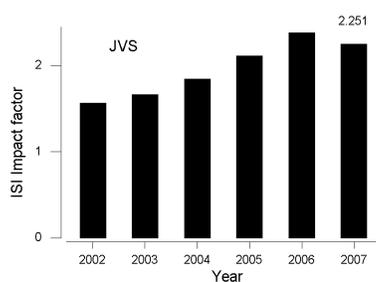
After a period with a declining number of subscriptions (but partly due to a “cleaning” of subscriber lists of non-paying institutions / private persons), subscriptions have stabilized. As with other journals there is a clear trend towards larger proportions of electronic and electronic & paper subscriptions.

Applied Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E	Paper	Electroni- cally	P + E
2006	91	10	9	209	81	18
2007	98	23	9	298	110	35

What was said about *JVS* regarding a larger proportion of electronic subscriptions is also true for *AVS*. While the number of institutional subscriptions in 2007 has only been somewhat higher than in 2006, private subscriptions have increased considerably.

IMPACT FACTORS



From 2002-2006, the ISI impact factor for *JVS* has steadily increased. For 2007, there is a slight drop to 2.251, but in general the IF for the journal has stabilized on a relatively high level. Although this gives *JVS* a position among the better journals within the fields of

Ecology and Plant Sciences, it cannot be regarded a top journal in terms of ISI ranking. It has been repeatedly discussed among IAVS council members and editors & associate editors of the journal why some other ecological journals have seen much stronger increases in their IF, and how to improve the situation for *JVS* in the near future.

The IF for *AVS* has in contrast slightly increased in 2007 compared to 2006, reaching about the level the journal had the two previous years.

The changes in IF for both journals appear to reflect some kind of natural variation, without any obvious trend for a true increase or decrease.

PRINTED PAPERS, REJECTION RATES AND PUBLICATION QUEUE

Journal of Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of Pages	No. of research papers (+ forum papers, editorials, short communications, book reviews, etc.)
February 2007	152	15 (+2)
April 2007	160	17
June 2007	144	15 (+3)
August 2007	156	16 (+1)
October 2007	158	17 (+1)
December 2007	156	14 (+3)
Sum 2007	926	94 (+10)
Sum 2006	844	83 (+9)

After having been very low in 2005 and also relatively low in 2006, the number of published papers in *JVS* in 2007 was 94, thus back at about the average shown over most years. The larger number of papers is also reflected in a much higher number of printed pages in 2007 compared with 2006 and especially 2005. Thus, the unfortunate situation of the two previous years that, given the number of pages planned to be filled, too few manuscripts were accepted relative to the number of submitted manuscripts, was no longer present in 2007.

Applied Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of Pages	No. of research papers (+ forum papers, editorials, short communications, etc.)
April 2007	150	14 (+2)
August 2007	148	17
December 2007	162	17
Sum 2007	460	48 (+2)
Sum 2006	316	32 (+2)

Since *AVS* has got an impact factor and increased its reputation of being an important journal for applied plant and vegetation ecology, more and more manuscripts have been submitted to *AVS*. To avoid a long cue of accepted papers waiting for publication, and in line with the general wish of the Association and the editors to expand the publication volume of *AVS*, the number of issues was increased from 2 to 3. Accordingly, the number of pages and papers published went up by about 50% compared to 2006. This will hopefully help to establish the journal as a full alternative to *JVS* that is still regarded as more important because of its higher IF and visibility (due to its bimonthly appearance).

IAVS BULLETINS

The IAVS Bulletin No. 10 was published in 2006. The newsletter includes an opening address of the then acting Secretary General Joop H.J. Schaminée, notes from the Administrator Nina Smits including a short Financial Report, the Report by the IAVS Publication Officer for the year 2005, the Report by the Chair of the Editors of the IAVS journals for the year 2006, the minutes of the IAVS Council meeting in Lisbon in 2005, and some reports by representatives of working groups, Commissions and Regional sections. It also gives short introductions to the forthcoming symposia in Palmerston North (New Zealand) in February 2007, in Swansea (UK) in July 2007, and in Stellenbosch (South Africa) in September 2008. The Bulletin concludes with a list of IAVS members to be elected for the new Council acting from 2007-2011.

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPULUS Press has recently sent in a financial report for the year 2007. However, the income and expenses reported in this document appear not to be fully consistent with the expectations that the association had based on information earlier provided by the publisher. A discussion between OPULUS Press and members of the EC is going on to clarify the discrepancies.

FUTURE PUBLICATION OF *JVS* AND *AVS*

At the annual IAVS meeting in Palmerston North in February 2007 it was decided (which was confirmed later by a ballot vote of the Advisory Council) to terminate the publishing contract between IAVS and OPULUS Press. The reasons for this decision were reported in earlier documents. During 2007 the association asked several publishing firms (Allen Press, Blackwell-Wiley, Elsevier, OPULUS, Springer) to send in proposals for the future publication of the journals *JVS* and *AVS*. At the IAVS symposium in Swansea a publication committee was formed (consisting of Robert Peet, Alessandro Chiarucci, Martin Zobel, Helge Bruelheide and Martin Diekmann); this group is in charge for discussing and negotiating with the above firms, and to finally suggest a contract with a future publisher of the journals to the Executive Committee. The decision will be taken in 2008, and a detailed description of the process of decision will be given in the publication report for the year 2008.