

WSSA P1 PUBLICATIONS BOARD REPORT FEBRUARY 2021

Committee Code and Name: P1 Publications Board

Chair and WSSA Board Coordinator: Chris Willenborg (2023)

Other Committee Members:

James Anderson	2022-W
Sharon Clay	2022-NC
Antonio DiTommaso,	ex-off 2021-P4
Carl Libbey, ex-off	2021-P8
Jason Norsworthy, ex-off	2021-P3
Hilary Sandler	2023-NE
Sarah Ward	2023-W
William Vencill,	ex-off 2021-P2

Financial Reports

Cambridge University Press has been invoiced for the following amounts for 2020 as per our contract:

Support for journal editor stipends: \$52,500

Sponsorship Fee (for support of Outstanding Paper awards): \$6,000

As of January 15, 2021 we are still waiting for the 2021 royalty forecasts from CUP.

WSSA Newsletter

Carl Libbey continued to do an excellent job as Newsletter Editor in 2020, with quarterly issues published on time.

WSSA journals in 2020 (2019 figures in parentheses)

2020 was the fourth full year with Cambridge University Press as our WSSA publishing partner. We continued working with CUP editorial and production staff to update WSSA journals based on current publishing practices: clarifying criteria for authorship, and standardizing use of scientific names and herbicide names for papers submitted to Weed Science and IPSM. As part of ongoing efforts to improve recognition for reviewers, three Outstanding Reviewer awards were given out for 2020, one for each journal.

Clarivate Analytics impact factors released in 2020 increased for both Weed Science and IPSM, with a small decline in Weed Technology. Numbers of published articles increased slightly compared to 2019 for Weed Technology and IPSM and declined slightly for Weed science. The increase for IPSM reverses a decline in the number of published articles in IPSM over the past couple of years. During 2020, a group led by Toni DiTommaso put together a new series for the journal that will feature the biology of invasive weeds. These papers will be literature reviews and the expectation is these papers will be highly-cited in time. Further, it is hoped that this series increase both submissions of high-quality papers to the journal, as well as the impact factor, in due course.

Weed Science Manuscripts submitted: 233 (219)
Acceptance rate: 41% (35%)
Total page number for 2020 volume: 681 (719)
Number published articles: 81 (83)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 36 days (38)
Impact factor 2.258 (2.00)

Weed Technology Manuscripts submitted: 203 (242)
Acceptance rate: 61% (57%)
Total page number for 2020 volume: 921 (875).
Number published articles: 126 (120)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 44 days (47 days)
Impact factor: 1.259 (1.384)

IPSM Manuscripts submitted: 60 (53)
Acceptance rate: 55% (44%)
Total page number for 2020 volume: 293 (251)
Number published articles: 33 (31)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 35 days (39 days)
Impact factor .905 (0.672)

Information Posted to WSSA Website:

Links to journal activity, press releases on the new featured journal article each issue, and WSSA Newsletters are posted on the WSSA website.

Funds spent in 2020:

Editorial stipends: \$52,500

Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Reviewer awards: \$6,000

Payment to Linda Edgerton for writing featured article press and blog releases: \$3,690 (\$6,000 budgeted).

Plan S Transformative Journals Summary

From January 2021, cOAlition S will only allow their funded authors to publish in hybrid journals if they have Transformative Journal status or are signed up to a Transformative Agreement (Read and Publish deal) with the institution in question. Becoming Transformative Journals does not change our policies or practices for the journals, but, critically, will mean that authors of research funded by cOAlition S will still be able to submit to the WSSA journals and publish open access in a Plan S-compliant manner. The journals are also agreeing to the following criteria:

- * Demonstrate a 5% increase in open access research content year-on-year
- * Announce on the journal website a commitment to transition to full open access and agree to transition when 75% of the journal's research content is open access (or earlier)
- * Avoid double-dipping in pricing (considering the amount of available OA content we publish and making sure we don't charge libraries more than we should for subscriptions)
- * Fulfill the existing Plan S requirements for publication venues (e.g. clear ethical and editorial policies, Creative Commons licensing - CC BY 4.0 in most cases)
- * Update authors on the usage, citations, and online attention of their articles

In practice, these requirements are all in place for the journals but it is a public statement of our commitment to an open access future. There are no financial implications in the short term as we believe that there is likely to be continued OA growth in the journals over the next few years and an increase in OA papers would benefit the journal positively. In the longer term as OA publishing increases, it is possible there would be consideration given to an eventual flip to a fully Gold OA journal. This would change the makeup of a journal's P&L agreement, and there would likely be financial implications. However, neither Cambridge nor WSSA would ever move forward with a full transition to Gold OA without prior research and modeling into whether or not it is a financially sound decision.

Goals for 2021:

- * Continue working with CUP to improve marketing of WSSA journals
- * Continue to work towards publication of the Herbicide Handbook 11e as a subscription database

Chris Willenborg
Director of Publications
January 2021