

WSSA P1 PUBLICATIONS BOARD REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

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 2022-P4
Carl Libbey, ex-off	2022-P8
Jason Norsworthy, ex-off	2022-P3
Hilary Sandler	2023-NE
Sarah Ward	2023-W
William Vencill,	ex-off 2022-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 29, 2022, we are waiting for the 2022 royalty forecasts from CUP. These are usually shared with us in March or April of each year.

WSSA Newsletter

Carl Libbey continued to do an excellent job as Newsletter Editor in 2021, with quarterly issues published on time.

WSSA journals in 2021 (2020 figures in parentheses)

2021 was the fifth 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. This now includes inclusion of the journals in the Plan S process (initiative for open-access publishing and more transparent publishing/data procedures). As part of this, we engage in the Transformative Journals process, with a commitment to transitioning to open access in the future (see below).

Clarivate Analytics impact factors released in 2021 showed a significant improvement for all three journals. While this is most welcome and is, no doubt, due to meritorious reviewing and editing, part of these large increases are due to changes in the calculation of impact factors. This year, in the calculation of impact factors, Clarivate used the date papers are released online as opposed to in print. This essentially meant a larger numerator in the calculation and thus, higher impact factors for most journals. Nevertheless, our journals well-positioned and highly regarded in all areas of weed science.

Numbers of published articles increased slightly compared to 2019 for Weed Technology and IPISM and declined slightly for Weed science. The increase for IPISM reverses a decline in the number of published articles in IPISM over the past couple of years. During

2021, Dr. Vencill oversaw a special issue of Weed Science papers devoted to weedy rice (Volume 69, Issue 5). It is hoped that this issue will increase the impact factor, in due course, as well as journal visibility in the South American and Asian-Pacific regions. Further to this, as part of ongoing efforts to improve recognition for reviewers, three Outstanding Reviewer awards were given out for 2021, one for each journal.

Weed Science Manuscripts submitted: 183 (233)
Acceptance rate: 39% (41%)
Total page number for 2021 volume: 729 (681)
Number published articles: 77 (81)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 40 days (36 days)
Impact factor 2.713 (2.258)
a. 21/91 Agronomy Journals
b. 84/235 Plant Sciences Journals

Weed Technology Manuscripts submitted: 191 (203)
Acceptance rate: 56% (61%)
Total page number for 2021 volume: 1038 (921).
Number published articles: 137 (126)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 49 days (44 days)
Impact factor: 1.703 (1.259)
a. 43/91 Agronomy Journals (48/91)
b. 121/235 Plant Sciences Journals (140/234)

IPSM Manuscripts submitted: 60 (60)
Acceptance rate: 59% (55%)
Total page number for 2021 volume: 281 (293)
Number published articles: 32 (33)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 40 days (35 days)
Impact factor 1.273 (0.905)
a. 168/235 Plant Sciences Journals

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. In addition, press releases are also now sent, via email, to all society members to ensure membership is kept abreast important scientific findings.

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: \$2,949 (\$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 2022:

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

Board Actions:

Request to BOD to establish and Associate Editor awards for each WSSA journal. Further, to provide \$200 to each Associate Editor award recipient for each WSSA journal, for a total of \$600 annually.

Chris Willenborg
Director of Publications
February 2022