



Editorial

International Journal of Agriculture and Biology: Fifteen Years of Struggle and Excellence

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Right now you are reading No. 1 (January issue) of Volume 16 of International Journal of Agriculture and Biology (IJAB), which has successfully completed 15 years of its regular publication since 1999. Since the day of inception of the journal, the IJAB team undertook dedicated efforts to maintain the quality of publication, which played a pivotal role not only in attracting but also enhancing the international readership over time (Fig. 1), with a sequential increase in the rejection rate (current >70%). The title has experienced an exponential increase in submission, especially from the year 2010. This was due to the fact that IJAB was indexed in Web of Knowledge (Thomson Reuters, ISI) starting from January 2009.

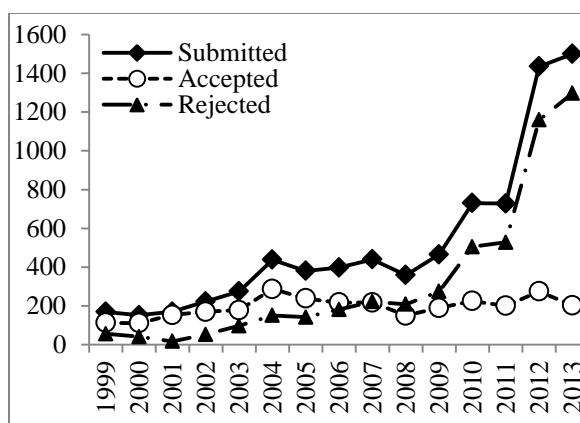


Fig. 1: Yearly data of submitted, accepted and rejected articles since inception of IJAB

Having been indexed by Web of Knowledge (Thomson Reuters), after stringent evaluation for three years, IJAB received its first Impact Factor in 2011, (in the list released in 2012) and second Impact Factor in 2012 (in the list released in 2013; Fig. 2). Keeping in view the importance of Impact Factor, Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan upgraded the journal to W category (the apex category) in her own periodicals category system. Furthermore, the submissions now are of better quality than they were in the past, which provided the opportunity of selection and publication of high quality articles.

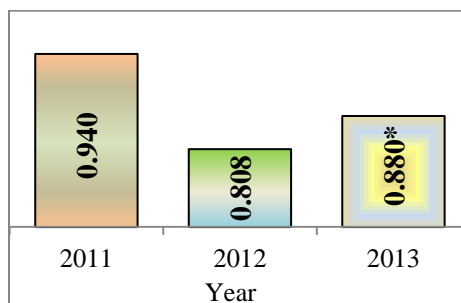


Fig. 2: Impact Factor of IJAB. * anticipated Impact Factor

The IJAB team is fully conscious of the quality of papers. The editorial team has been increased about twofold for speedy handling and decision on the submissions. To judge the original results being reported in the papers, the authors are asked to add a novelty statement before the **Abstract**. Every submitted paper is passed through Turnitin (www.turnitin.com), online software, to check the plagiarized materials, if any, contained therein. The submissions with more than 20% plagiarized materials are straightaway returned to the authors. This practice has been beneficial for both parties; the submitting authors now have better consciousness of the malaise of plagiarism while for IJAB, the submissions are written up much originally. To enhance the acceptability and a rapid decisions on the submissions, the authors are strongly encouraged to follow the **Guide for Authors** and a **Sample Paper** available at the website: www.fspublishers.org

The IJAB used to receive the submissions by email until recent past. However, from the mid of 2013, a user friendly online submission system (<http://www.fspublishers.org/IJAB-Submit-Manuscript-Online.php>) has been introduced. Since then, the submissions are accepted only via this system and initial decision is communicated to the corresponding authors within 48 h.

Despite an enormous submission rate, the IJAB team is vindicated in thinking that quality submissions are the driver of success of this title. At the same time we believe that citation of the IJAB paper in the journals other than IJAB is very valuable in increasing the Impact Factor of IJAB and giving it a more prestigious position in the list of multidisciplinary journals.

Editors
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