

South African Journal of Wildlife Research Scientific Editor's report -2008

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First off I have to thank Elma Marais for all the work she has put into the journal and for providing me with the stats provided in this report and for much support in all aspects of the journal.

Associate Editors

We have had some turnover of Associate Editors with two resignations and one new addition. Dr. Matt Hayward (Australian Wildlife Conservancy) joined us and Prof. Michael Cherry (University of Stellenbosch) and Prof. Graeme Cumming (University of Cape Town) have resigned. Michael Cherry has accepted a new position as Chief Editor of *South African Journal of Science*. We thank them both for their valuable input while serving on the editorial board. I will be approaching potential new Associate Editors soon.

Presently the associate editors are:

Prof. Marthán N. Bester

Mammal Research Institute
Department of Zoology & Entomology
University of Pretoria

Prof. James (J.N.) Blignaut

Department of Economics,
University of Pretoria

Prof. Elissa Cameron

Mammal Research Institute
Department of Zoology & Entomology
University of Pretoria

Prof. Graham (G.I.H.) Kerley

Director: Centre for African Conservation
Ecology
Department of Zoology
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Dr. Gus (M.G.L.) Mills

Research Fellow: The Tony and Lisette Lewis
Foundation South Africa
Kgalagadi Cheetah Project

Prof. Jan (J.A.J.) Nel
 Dept. of Botany & Zoology
 University of Stellenbosch

Prof. Norman Owen-Smith
 Director of Centre for African Ecology
 School of Animal, Plant and Environmental
 Sciences
 University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Matt Hayward
 Australian Wildlife Conservancy
 Australia

Present Status of SAJWR

Turnaround Time

The total period under review has increased slightly from 124 to 136 days (Figure 1). We will try bringing this back down but it is still a large improvement on a few years back. The numbers of manuscripts in various stages of the process are provided in Figure 2.

Figure 1. Processing times for the various phases of publication.

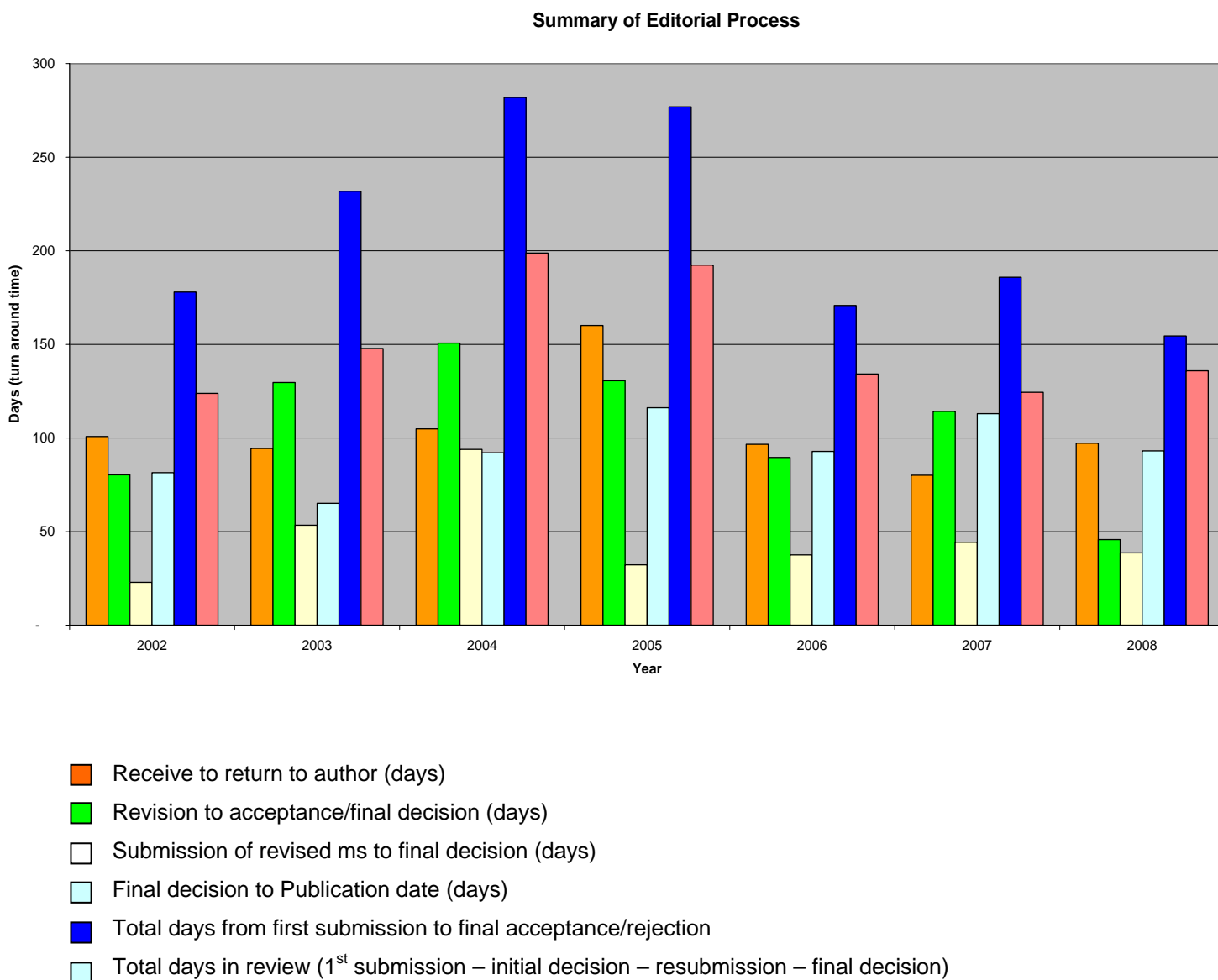


Figure 2. Number of manuscripts in the various stages of publication.

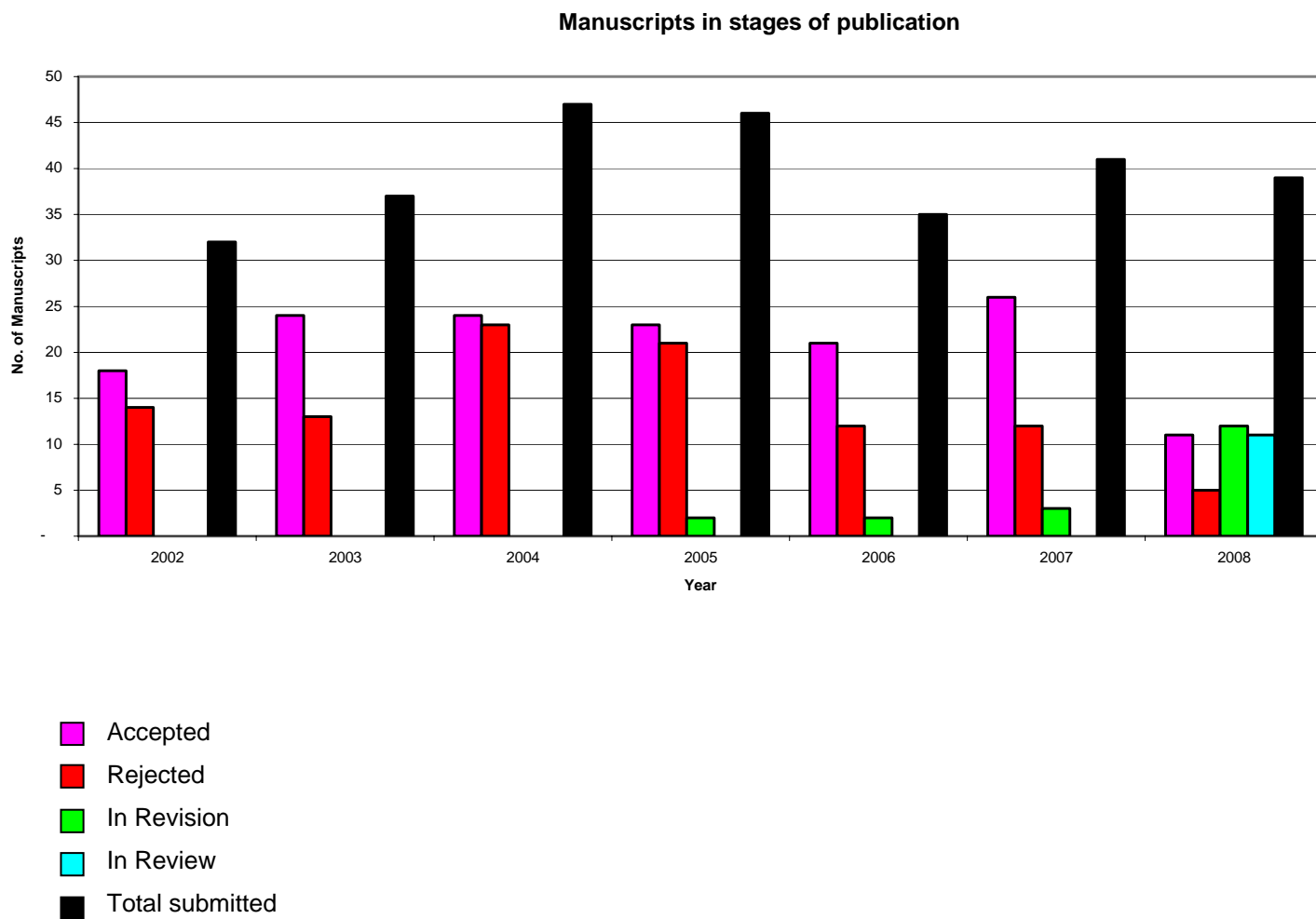
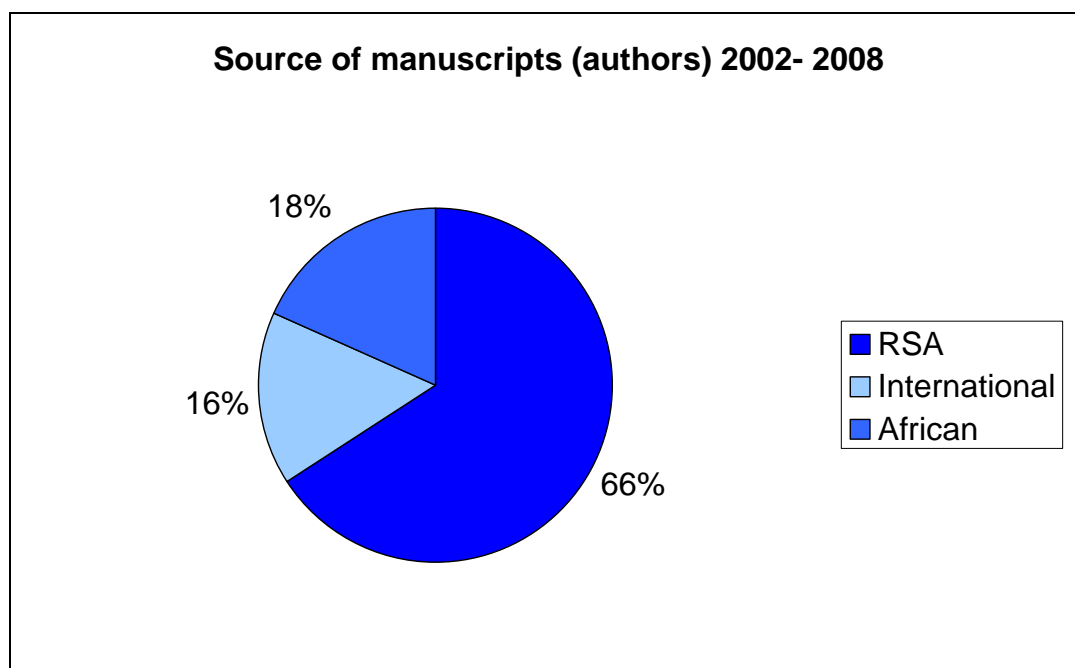


Figure 3. Origin of manuscripts to SAJWR since 2002.



Impact Factor

Then current Impact Factor (IF) for SAJWR is **0.82** – this figure is up from 0.488. The 2008 IFs are based on citations in 2007 from papers published in 2005 and 2006. 2005 is the first year in which the entire journal fell under Michael Cherry's editorship.

Impact Factor of other journals:

African Zoology at 0.383

South African Journal of Botany at 0.444

African Journal of Ecology at 0.688

Koedoe (not rated)

Publication outlets for SAJWR

The Editors' Forum for Scholarly Journals was formally launched at a workshop in Pretoria on 25 July 2007 with another meeting in October 2008. The forum has investigated various options open to South African journals. At present the Forum and DST is proposing an open access system for South African Journals. This will be on the same bases as the government supported SciELO open access platform in South America (www.scielo.org). We will wait and see what the outcome of this is to see if we will take part.

We were then approached by OpenJournals Publishing, an online open-access publisher. They also host Koedoe. They gave us a quote but would end up costing us more than the present set-up without members getting a free copy of the journal.

We approached Blackwell with no response from them after 3 emails. Then we approached Elsevier with whom we went into detailed negotiation with, and who eventually turned us down as "SAJWR is not attractive enough from a publication and economic standpoint" to them (we are not large enough i.t.o. page numbers and member numbers to make them (and us) any money).

In March we received an invitation from BioOne.2 to add *South African Journal of Wildlife Research* to their 2009 collection. BioOne includes quite a number of complementary journals such as *African Zoology*, and also many top journals. A journal in BioOne earns revenue which is based on two factors:

- 1) the total number of pages in the collection and
- 2) The hits to abstracts and full text during the calendar year, relative to the collection as a whole. We will also backdate the journal two years to include 2007 and 2008.

During the council meeting benefits from the increased visibility and revenue opportunities that BioOne offers were discussed and it was decided to sign a contract with BioOne. Both BioOne and Sabinet has non-exclusive contracts which means that everything will remain the same if we join BioOne - they just carry our content in addition to Sabinet. With BioOne members will continue to have free access to the journal - either still from Sabinet or from BioOne via our website, and income will be generated from BioOne. It will not cost SAWMA anything to join BioOne, and initial expenses will be deducted from income generated. The contract was signed with BioOne in July and we are up and running on their site.

With Sabinet we have negotiated a 2 year lag to open access. This is up and running and is presently backdated to 1991 – thanks to Louw Hoffman who has had these old copies scanned. African Online Journal Archive (associated with Sabinet) has offered to take our issues online back to Volume 1, Number 1. This they will be doing with Sabinet who will then have access to these volumes and include them on the open access system too.

We are also covered on EBSCO which we have agreed to continue.

All these agreements are non-exclusive.

SAJWR started being covered by Google Scholar in 2008 – which will also increase our visibility and perhaps impact.

Instructions to Authors

I am updating and expanding the instructions to authors for a full revision to be implemented in 2010. Some minor changes were made in 2008. This included asking the authors to provide the email addresses of all co-authors. All co-authors now receive a copy of the acknowledgement of receipt of the paper. Further changes will bring our journal in line with the ASSAf guide to best practice – available on: www.assaf.org.za

Page Charges

The page charges have been adjusted to R200/page for members and R300 for non-members.

Reprints

From 2008 reprints have been done away with. A free PDF will be provided instead.

Conclusion

It remains for me to thank our editorial assistant, Elma Marais, our publisher Nico Dippenaar, the associate editors, and our authors for all their hard work during the past year.