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**Agronomy Journal  
Annual Report  
  
Editorial Board Meeting, October 23, 3-5 pm  
Millennium Hotel, Colonnade B, Second Floor**

From January 1, 2012 to October 5, 2012, 364 manuscripts were submitted for possible publication in Agronomy Journal. Of these, 34 (9%) were rejected outright and not reviewed. Our acceptance rate for 2012 is 47.06%. Based on the first nine months, we expect to have over 480 submissions by the end of the year.

At present we have 26 SAE’s and 94 AE’s. We have 2 SAE’s that will retire this year, and we hope to fill both posts this coming year.

The average number of papers that our SAE’s have handled thus far in 2012 is 12.2. The range has been 4 to 16. We have had an increase in submissions in crop science/genetics and where an added SAE could be beneficial.

Results for manuscript submissions over the past 12 months are included in Table 1. Also included are some basic graphs showing manuscript submissions, acceptance rates, and impact factor from 2002 to 2011 (Figures 1 and 2). Our acceptance ratio continues to be right around 50 percent over this time period, with submissions increasing slightly. Impact factor numbers have also increased, and these values will be discussed at our editorial staff meeting. How impact factors are computed, and what they mean will also be addressed. Review times have been consistently lowered as electronic submissions have become commonplace and the software used to handle scientific papers has improved. Nonetheless, we should work to decrease review times as this can only help.

Many thanks are extended to all our Senior Associate Editors and Associate Editors, and to the entire team at ASA Headquarters in Madison.

**Table 1. Agronomy Journal statistics over the last 12 months for manuscripts submitted for possible publication.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Past 12 Months** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Submitted** | **Accepted** | **Immediate Reject** | **Reject** | **Minor Revision** | **Major Revision** | **% Accepted** |
| 462 | 191 | 47 | 184 | 149 | 181 | 45.30% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Journal Statistics |  |  |  | Prior 12 Months |  |  |
| Avg. days from submission to first decision | | | | 34 |  |  |
| Avg. Associate Editor turnaround time (days) - **Original** | | | | 19 |  |  |
| Avg. Reviewer turnaround time (days) - **Original** | | | | 19 |  |  |
| Avg. Associate Editor turnaround time (days) - **Revision** | | | | 14 |  |  |
| Avg. Reviewer turnaround time (days) - **Revision** | | | | 14 |  |  |
| Avg. Time to Assign Reviewer (days) - **Original** | | | | 5 |  |  |
| Avg. Time to Assign Reviewer (days) - **Revision** | | | | 3 |  |  |
| Avg. days from submission to final decision | | | | 55 |  |  |

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=15639&tip=sid>

We have noted an Increase in submissions coming from China and India. As a result, we added an SAE to assist in better evaluating some of these papers. Their science is quite good, but many struggle with English grammar/communication.

When responding to authors that are submitting manuscripts to AJ, and where English is not their native language, ASA recommends several web sites that can be used to improve their paper.

<https://www.agronomy.org/publications/language-help>

<http://virtual.parkland.edu/walker102/punct.htm>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

In addition to these web sites, we always recommend that they review the ‘Instructions to Authors’ (<https://www.agronomy.org/files/publications/aj-instructions-author.pdf>). This has been available on-line for some time, and that we will edit following board approval of changes in how we bill authors.

Figure 1. Manuscripts submitted to Agronomy Journal, and percent accepted from 2002 to 2011.

Figure 2. International and USA submissions to Agronomy Journal and the associated impact factor from 2002 to 2011.