

February 26, 2014

Report by the former Chief Editor of the WATER QUALITY RESEARCH JOURNAL OF CANADA, Ronald Gehr, to the CAWQ Board of Directors.

This report will focus on the column headed “Vol. 48, 2013” in the attached Key Publication Statistics; thoughts and suggestions for the new Co-Editors will be added where appropriate.

While the number of papers submitted to the journal increased substantially in 2012, and increased again very slightly in 2013 (to 162), the number rejected has increased sharply. I rejected 94 summarily before they went for review, and 15 more were rejected after review. The reason for the increase in submissions is, I believe, due to the publicity that the journal is receiving through IWA publications, BUT unfortunately the quality of papers sent our way has declined, leading to a fair amount of unproductive effort spent by this former Chief Editor. The new Co-Editors will do themselves a great favour if they can somehow refine our message such that prospective authors do not waste their and our time sending us localized case studies of no interest to Canadians, and papers which are more suitable as technical notes.

Evidence of the low quality of papers being received lately is the low number of papers accepted in 2013 which were not published in 2013 (30). This means that we have very few papers “in the pool” which can be used to maintain a quarterly publication rate of about 32 - 34 papers.

The annual average number of weeks from submission of manuscript to acceptance is down from 30 and 31 for the previous two years to 26 weeks for 2013, which is encouraging, and indicative of the push from IWA Publishing to shorten this period. Indeed, 6 months from submission to publication seems to me to be rather good!

The number of articles published each year, and the number of pages, is holding steady at approximately 32 – 34 articles, and generally over 400 pages.

The total number of subscribers, at 230, is very low (down from 370 in 2012), which reflects the fact that there was no automatic registration of members at the 2013 Hamilton conference. I believe that this will be balanced at the 2014 Niagara-on-the-Lake conference, as ALL registrants – CAWQ and CWWA – will become subscribers. Good move!

The latest ISI Journal Impact Factor for 2012 is 0.25; the new impact factor for 2013 will be released by ISI around April / May; obviously we are hoping for (and expecting) an increase.

Finally, I thank the new Co-Chief-Editors, Peter Vanrolleghem and Ron Droste, for taking over responsibility for steering the journal into ever more successful waters, and wish them *bon voyage*.

