

# HRL Annual Summary 2016

*Hydrological Research Letters* (HRL) is an international and trans-disciplinary electronic online journal published by Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources (JSHWR), in collaboration with Japanese Association of Groundwater Hydrology (JAGH) and Japanese Association of Hydrological Sciences (JAHS), aiming at rapid exchange and outgoing of information in these fields. All accepted papers are published on the journal website (<http://www.hrljournal.org/>) under an open access policy. One of the advantages of this journal is a prompt reviewing process.

Here I'd like to provide information on journal operations in 2016, current state in external journal metrics, and way forward.

## JOURNAL OPERATIONS

### *Published papers*

The total number of papers published in Volume 10 (2016) was **22**. This number is slightly higher than that in recent 5 years, as shown below.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of papers	20	18	17	21	22

Although HRL papers are published online as soon as possible after their acceptance, each Volume is composed of 4 Numbers (for every 3 months as a general rule). The breakdown of total published papers is as follows.

Vol. 10	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4
No. of papers	8	4	5	5

These tables suggest that nearly constant publications were maintained year by year and within a year of 2016.

### *Manuscript volume*

The total number of submissions during 2016 (not including resubmissions after Revise but including those after Resubmission)\* was **83**. This number is the highest in recent 5 years, as shown below.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of submissions	28	57	24	54	83

However, this increase in submissions is partly due to increase in judgement of Resubmission.

*\*Note: HRL has four categories as review results: Accept, Revise, Resubmission, and Reject. The Revise means the manuscript is potentially acceptable after minimum revision(s). Resubmission means it is not acceptable with minimum revision(s) but is worth reviewing again after major revision. In the case of Resubmission, the manuscript is treated as new one, although a review result for the previous submission may be considered.*

#### *Acceptance, resubmission, and rejection rates*

The following table shows the number and percentage of manuscripts with final decision in (i.e. not always submitted in) 2016. The percentage of accepted manuscripts (including those via Revise) was **35.4%**. Manuscripts judged as Resubmission was about a half. Some one-fifth of the total was rejected.

Final decision in 2016 <sup>#</sup>	Number	Percentage
Accept (mostly via Revise)	28	35.4
Resubmission	36	45.6
Reject	15	19.0
Total	79	100.0

<sup>#</sup> Not for all submissions in 2016 but partly including submissions in 2015

#### *Time to final decision*

The time to final decision for manuscripts made in 2016 was **1.9** months on average, as shown below.

Final decision	Average time to final decision (months)
Accept (mostly via Revise)	3.2
Resubmission	1.2
Reject	0.9
All	1.9

This table indicates that, roughly speaking, sufficient quality papers can be accepted after three months and the others are judged as insufficient after one month.

### *Geographic variety of corresponding author*

The following table summarizes corresponding authors' country for submissions in 2016. Not unexpectedly, the percentage of JAPAN was the largest (74.7%). Submissions from Southeast Asia (THAILAND, MALAYSIA, VIET NAM, PHILIPPINES) were relatively large (totally 14.5%). There were some submissions from North America (CANADA and UNITED STATES), South Asia (INDIA), and others (ETHIOPIA, MONGOLIA, NETHERLANDS, and PANAMA).

Country	Number	Percentage
CANADA	2	2.4
ETHIOPIA	1	1.2
INDIA	2	2.4
JAPAN	62	74.7
MALAYSIA	3	3.6
MONGOLIA	1	1.2
NETHERLANDS	1	1.2
PANAMA	1	1.2
PHILIPPINES	1	1.2
THAILAND	6	7.2
UNITED STATES	1	1.2
VIET NAM	2	2.4
Total	83	100.0

## **JOURNAL METRICS**

### *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)*

One of the most famous journal metrics is the Impact Factor (IF), which is calculated for journals covered by the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) or Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) in the Web of Science Core Collection (originally produced by the Institute for Scientific Information and now maintained by Clarivate Analytics). The ESCI is a new index in the Web of Science Core Collection and includes high-quality, peer-reviewed publications of regional importance and in emerging scientific fields.

In August 2015, HRL came to be covered by ESCI, although its journal list is not yet updated. It is hoped that HRL is covered also by SCIE as soon as possible.

### *Scopus*

The Scopus is one of the largest citation database owned by Elsevier. HRL is suggested to Scopus in November 2015 and now under final evaluation.

### *Google Scholar Metrics*

Scholar Metrics provided by Google summarize recent citations and display some metrics, such as h5-index, for selected journals. Scholar Metrics only include publications with at least a hundred articles in the last five years. The total number of HRL papers published in 2012-2016 was 98, so that the metrics on HRL is currently not displayed.

## **WAY FOWARD**

### *Adopting CC-BY 4.0*

Until 2016, copyright on any article published in HRL was transferred from the author(s) to JSHWR. However, copyright on articles published after 1 January 2017 is retained by the author(s) on the condition as follows. The article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided one gives appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. This will enhance convenient exchange of intelligence among HRL authors and readers.

### *Inter-society joint publishing*

After April 2017, HRL will be published jointly by JSHWR, JAGH, JAHS, and Japanese Society of Physical Hydrology (JSPH). Owing to this, Editorial Board will be expanded and strengthened so as to promote more rapid review process and to further improve journal quality.

On behalf of Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief Tsutomu Yamanaka  
*University of Tsukuba, Japan*