HRL Annual Summary 2017

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 2017 and current state in external journal metrics.

JOURNAL OPERATIONS

Published papers

The total number of papers published in Volume 11 (2017) was **30**. This number is remarkably higher than that in recent 5 years, as shown below.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of papers	18	17	21	22	30

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. 11	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4
No. of papers	14	7	5	4

The increase in number of published papers in No. 1 were attributable to Special Collections of "The 7th International Conference on Water Resources and Environment Research (ICWRER2016)", "Program for Risk Information on Climate Change (SOUSEI)", and "THA 2015 International Conference on Climate Change and Water & Environment Management in Monsoon Asia".

Manuscript volume

The total number of submissions during 2017 (not including resubmissions after Revise but including those after Resubmission)* was **46**. This number is nearly average over recent 5 years, as

shown below.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of submissions	57	24	54	83	46

Unfortunately, drastic increase in the number of submissions in 2006 were due to SCs as mentioned above and were temporal.

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) 2017. The percentage of accepted manuscripts (including those via Revise) was **33.8**%. Another one-third of total manuscripts was judged as Resubmission and the other was rejected.

Final decision in 2017[#]	Number	Percentage
Accept (mostly via Revise)	20	33.8
Resubmission	21	35.6
Reject	18	30.5
Total	59	100.0

[#] *Not for all submissions in 2017 but partly including submissions in 2016*

Time to final decision

The time to final decision for manuscripts made in 2017 was **1.8** months on average, as shown below.

Final decision	Average time to final decision (months)
Accept (mostly via Revise)	2.7
Resubmission	1.6
Reject	1.0
All	1.8

This table indicates that, roughly speaking, sufficient quality papers were accepted within three months after the submission, whereas papers that do not meet the journal standard were rejected by one month after.

Geographic variety of corresponding author

The following table summarizes corresponding authors' country for submissions in 2017. The percentage of JAPAN was the largest (84.8%) and higher than in 2016. Submissions from Canada accounted for 6.5% and from Asia (THAILAND, VIET NAM, and MONGOLIA) were totally 8.6%.

Country	Number	Percentage
CANADA	3	6.5
JAPAN	39	84.8
MONGOLIA	1	2.2
THAILAND	2	4.3
VIET NAM	1	2.2
Total	46	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 ECSI 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.

HRL is indexed by ECSI since 2015. IF for HRL in 2017 was calculated to be **0.60**, though it is not an official value.

Scopus

The Scopus is one of the largest citation database owned by Elsevier. HRL was decided to be included in Scopus since May 2017. However, journal metrics, such as SNIP and SJR, for HRL are not yet given.

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 2013-2017 was 108, so that the metrics on HRL will be displayed in 2018.

Using Google Scholar database with Publish or Perish (Harzing.com), a software program that retrieves and analyzes academic citations, some journal metrics can be obtained. In 2017, h-index =

20 and g-index = 38

RG Journal Impact

Research Gate, a social networking site for scientists and researchers, reports a journal metric called RG Journal Impact. Year-to-year variation of the metric for HRL is shown below.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RG Journal Impact	0.71	2.00	1.39	1.46	0.89	1.27	1.08

After 2015, this metric has not been calculated. 2018 RG Journal Impact will be available in summer of 2019.

On behalf of Editorial Board

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