

## ■ From the editors' desk

We are at the end of 2019. This is the seventh issue of the Bulletin and the fifth year of publication. Having served as Editor-in-Chief for the whole of this period I will look back at what has been achieved and give my views on the future of our Bulletin.

I will start with some statistics, which to me look good (Table 1.1). The statistics are based on our OJS server, and ignore views and downloads previous to September 2017 due to statistics having been reset during a major update to the server software. In other words, they describe approximately 25 months of visits to the Bulletin site. These data do not include whole issue downloads. Of course, they also miss the views to copies deposited by authors in public repositories like ResearchGate.

During the life of the Bulletin, 43 articles have been published. These “articles” are items that have been assigned a DOI. Editorials and letters from the president have been assigned DOIs only in the most recent issues.

I interpret the data in the table above as showing that the Bulletin has waken up the interest of readers not only within our Association but also outside it. It is also of interest to know how views and downloads relate to articles. Close to 7 600 abstract views and nearly 4 000 PDF downloads from only 43 articles published is encouraging.

If we look at the popularity of individual articles (Fig. 1.1) we can see that the distribution is skewed to the right (with a few very popular articles) and most frequently article PDFs being downloaded 25 times per year, and abstracts viewed more than 50 times per year. The abstract with most views had 822 views and the one with fewest had 51 views. The most popular PDF was downloaded 323 times and the least popular, 24 times. These numbers reinforce my belief that the Bulletin

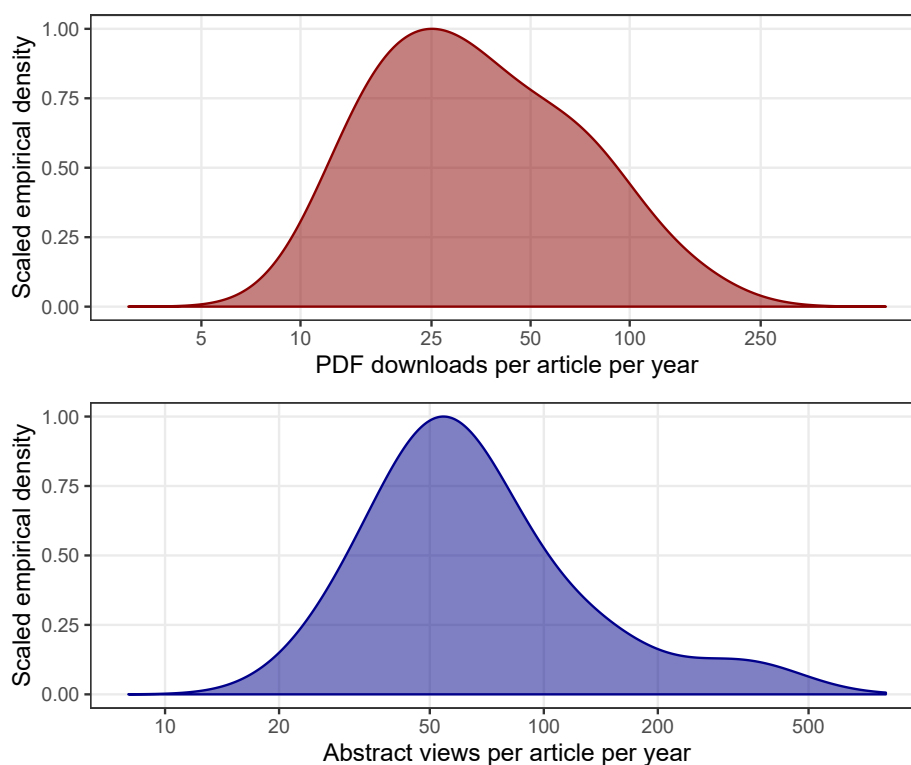
Issue	Number of articles	Abstract views	PDF file downloads
2015:1	5	1195	304
2016:1	7	1429	550
2016:2	7	893	1174
2017:1	7	1895	938
2018:1	8	812	486
2018:2	9	1368	434
Total	43	7592	3886

**Table 1.1:** Number of views and downloads from the *UV4Plants Bulletin* OJS server between September 2017 and December 2019.

is relevant as a platform for communication of more than our associations' internal news. Significant, the most frequently downloaded article PDF and the most viewed abstract are for two articles describing methods.

What is happening outside of our server is difficult to assess. In the exceptional case of a book review that *has gone viral* (Aphalo 2018), reads continue to accumulate at a rate of approximately 1500 to 2000 per week, with an accumulated total of 267 134 reads as of today. This serves more as a warning about how to interpret altmetric indexes than as a demonstration of impact of this article published in the Bulletin. On the other hand this popularity shows that our copyright policy that allows authors to deposit in public and institutional repositories their articles can be highly beneficial both to authors and our Bulletin.

Now, let's look at the difficulties. We need both more manuscript submissions and a faster turn-around for reviewing and editorial decisions. One reason for the lack of submissions maybe the assumption that the Bulletin has very low visibility, which is refuted by the statistics above. Another reason may be the delay in publication of articles. This delay is



**Figure 1.1:** Popularity of individual articles. The  $y$ -axis shows the normalised frequency of articles having a given number of views or downloads per year. The distribution is skewed with a long right hand tail, even plotted using a logarithmic scale for the  $x$ -axis. Density computed from the number of views and downloads from the *UV4Plants Bulletin* OJS server between September 2017 and December 2019.

in part due to lack of articles preventing more frequent publication of issues and the technical difficulties we have encountered in implementing “early on-line publication”. The slow turn-around and delays in decisions are related to editors’ being busy with other duties and to how responsibilities have been assigned within the editorial board based on subject areas rather than on the steps in the editorial work-flow.

Looking forward to 2020, I will now focus on the future of the Bulletin and let our president discuss other matters in his letter. From the perspective of the OJS server software, new exciting features have been announced for the next major revision. The feature I find most relevant to the Bulletin is support for multiple article versions. Once publica-

tion takes place on-line, publication of separate errata makes little sense. The article can be corrected, and both the original and corrected version can be kept on line, with the corrected version displayed by default. The availability of versions for articles will also allow updates, for example, to tutorial articles in relation to suppliers and to track updates in the used software.

With respect to the management of editorial tasks I have started discussions with some members of the editorial board and we plan to produce a proposal for a new organization of our “virtual editorial office” before the next General Assembly meeting.

As promised by Marcel Jansen in the editorial to issue 2018:1, we have in the current issue new entries in the section “**Meet-**

**a-Member**", with *Paul W. Barnes* and *Line Nybakken* answering the "standard" set of questions. This section aims at bringing together our community of collaborating scientists and unrequested manuscripts with this same aim are warmly welcome.

Articles by *Frauke Pescheck* and *Marco Santin* report on the Photobiology Congress in Barcelona. *Marcel A. K. Jansen*, and *Arnold Rácz* and *Kristóf Csepregi* report on the workshop on 'UV-B and Climate Change; impacts on plants and vegetation' held in Cork, from the organizers' and participants' perspective, respectively. An article by *Kaisa Lakkala* compiles abstracts from the *Annual Meeting of the Nordic Ozone and UV group, 2019* on presentations of interest to our readership.

My own article in the Methods section uses the example of neutral density filters to highlight that most pieces of equipment do not behave as the theory would require: actual neutral density and not really wavelength neutral. In practice, this is important when they are used to adjust irradiance or for shading in experiments. As discussed above, methods descriptions and tutorials have been popular and are important to keep interest in the Bulletin from the wider research community and in this way also advertise our association.

As usual we have a Letter from the president and a News section. Sadly, we also have an *obituary for Gaetano Zipoli*, a former member of UV4Plant who was a good friend to many of us.

Best wishes to you all,

*Pedro J. Aphalo*, Editor-in-Chief.  
Helsinki, December 2019.

## References

Aphalo, P. J. (2018). "Sense and nonsense of bibliometrics". In: *UV4Plants Bulletin*

2018.1, pp. 11–14. DOI: [10.19232/uv4pb.2018.1.10](https://doi.org/10.19232/uv4pb.2018.1.10).

