

From the Editor

Silva Fennica Vol. 40 included 48 articles published in four quarterly issues in 2006. The number of published articles continued increasing from the previous years. This was possible due to a high rate of manuscript submission, which went up by one third from the previous year. The increasing trend has prevailed for several years now. In spite of the increased number of manuscripts to deal with, the reviewing and editorial processes were speedier than in the previous years. The median of first responses to authors (editorial response with reviews) was three months and the median of editorial decisions (final acceptance or rejection) four months. The publishing time – from submission to publication – also remained short. The median of the publishing times was ten months. Silva Fennica continued to have high standards in publishing, with the acceptance rate at 38%.

Research published in Silva Fennica is covered by the major abstracting and indexing services. Moreover, Silva Fennica is readily available on the journal's own website, with free access to abstracts and full-text articles. The articles are well cited in the scientific literature and are also long used as a source of scientific information. The cited half-life of the articles has been about eight years, i.e. half of all the citations to Silva Fennica have referred to articles published in the last eight years, and the remaining half to articles older than eight years.

Online readership keeps gaining foothold in the use of scientific information. Silva Fennica is no exception: the use of Silva Fennica's online articles has increased year after year. In 2006, the average number of full-text articles downloaded each day was more than 200. Open access to online content has an essential role in Silva Fennica's publishing policy. Together with other online services to readers and authors, it makes for easy and rapid communication between the users and the journal.

Scientific quality is the cornerstone in Silva Fennica's publishing policy. The peer-review process, again, is a vital function for ensuring that the results have been obtained by using a sound and valid research procedure. In 2006, Silva Fennica could rely on the competence of 185 reviewers for comments on manuscripts and recommendations to authors for improving the articles. The reviewers and their work are acknowledged elsewhere in this issue, but I take the pleasure to thank them once more here. I also wish to thank the members of the Editorial Board, who helped in many ways in conducting the peer-review process.

In 2007, the featured tree in Silva Fennica cover photography is Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* L.), which is a Eurasian tree native to eastern and central Europe and southwest Asia, from France east to Russia, north to southern Scandinavia and southeast to northern Iran. This deciduous tree grows in temperate forests of the Northern hemisphere.

In the current year Silva Fennica will continue to publish high-quality scientific papers. Trusting in good co-operation with authors, reviewers, the Editorial Board and the editorial staff, I am optimistic about Silva Fennica's prospects and its ability to provide pertinent scientific information on forests, forestry and forest products.

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