

From the Editor

Silva Fennica Vol. 45 included 66 articles published in six issues in 2011. The volume contained a special issue titled “Northern Primeval Forests: Ecology, Conservation and Management”. The articles in the special issue provide current research results on northern primeval forests. The articles were selected through the journal’s normal peer review process.

New Highs Reached

The numbers of submitted and published articles in 2011 were once again greater than ever before. This implies that Silva Fennica’s strategy for increasing the number of published articles while not compromising scientific quality continues successfully.

The acceptance rate in 2011 was 35%. That figure reflects the importance placed on scientific quality in Silva Fennica’s publishing policy. Peer review is the cornerstone of scientific quality. In 2011, Silva Fennica received 332 evaluation reports from reviewers. The reviewers and their work are acknowledged elsewhere in this issue, but I take the pleasure to express my gratitude to them once more here.

Open access online publishing is Silva Fennica’s main way of dissemination today but printed issues will still appear. The number of article downloads has doubled since 2005, rising to more than 110 000 in 2011. That means over 300 downloaded PDF files per day. Silva Fennica continues to be well-cited in current scientific literature. Silva Fennica’s 2-year impact factor in the 2010 edition of Thomson Reuters’s Journal Citation Reports was 1.182. Among the 54 journals in the JCR forestry category, Silva Fennica’s impact factor was well above the median.

Silva Fennica Recognised As a Leading Journal

In August 2010, the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies launched the Finnish Publication Forum Project, which aimed at a quality classification of scientific publication channels, journals and book publishers, in all disciplines of science. The project was initiated by the Universities Finland and funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The first classification, covering approximately 20 000 journals and series, was published in February 2012.

Scientific disciplines were grouped into 23 research fields. Forest sciences were placed in the field of agricultural sciences, which included 880 journals. Evaluation and ranking of publication channels took place in specific expert panels, each of them representing a research field. The expert panels had 6–13 members. Publication channels were rated into two levels: domestic and foreign scientific publications, *level 1*, and leading scien-

tific publications, *level 2*. To meet the criteria for level 1, a journal needed to have an editorial board of experts in the research field and employ an accepted form of quality control, particularly peer review. Level 2 covered the leading scientific publications, in which researchers from different countries publish their best research. At most 20% of the journals in each research field could be rated at level 2. *Silva Fennica* was among them, thus earning recognition as a leading research journal.

Journal rating was based on three impact factors: Journal Impact Factor, Source Normalized Impact Factor per Paper and SCImago Journal Rank. Earlier ratings made in Norway, Denmark and Australia, and the European Reference Index for Humanities produced by the European Science Foundation, were also used. In addition to the bibliometric indicators and the four earlier peer ratings mentioned above, panels had to discuss and deliberate the weight of other available data in rating of publications. More information of the project and the lists of ratings are available on the website of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies at www.tsv.fi.

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