

PASA REPORT 2019

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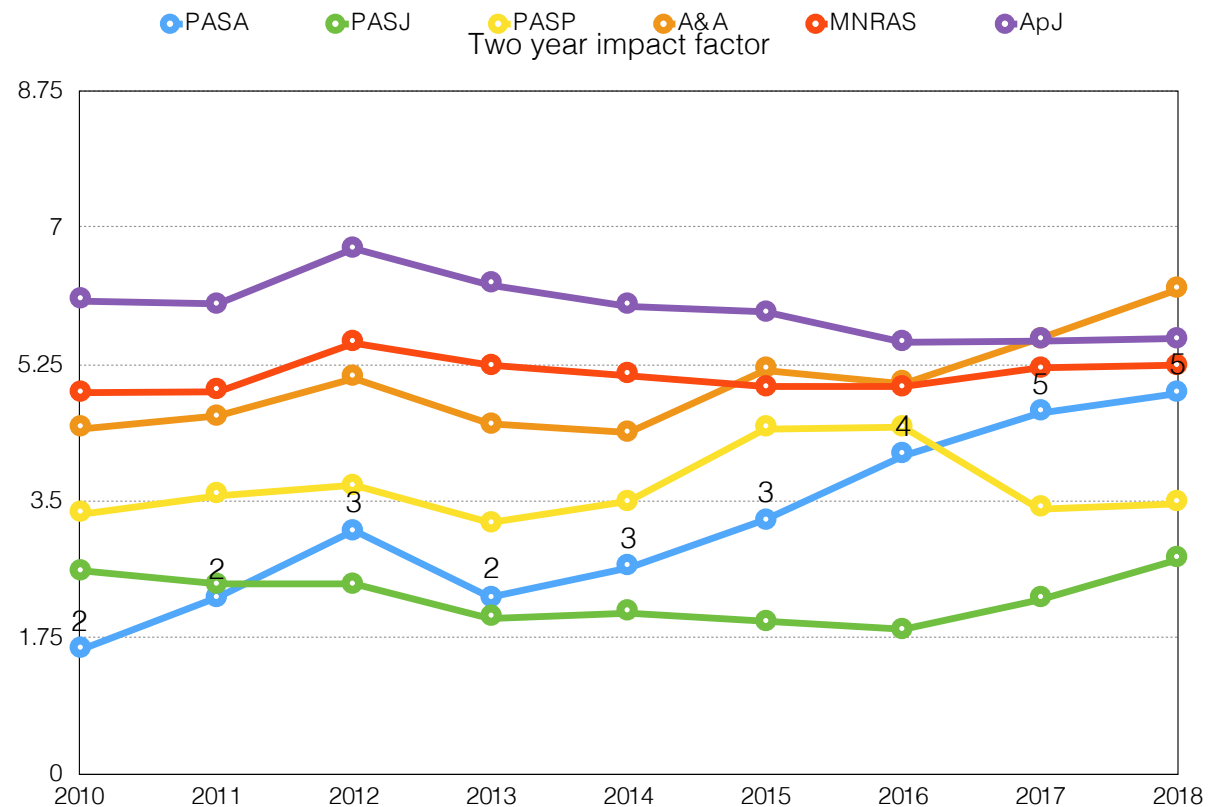


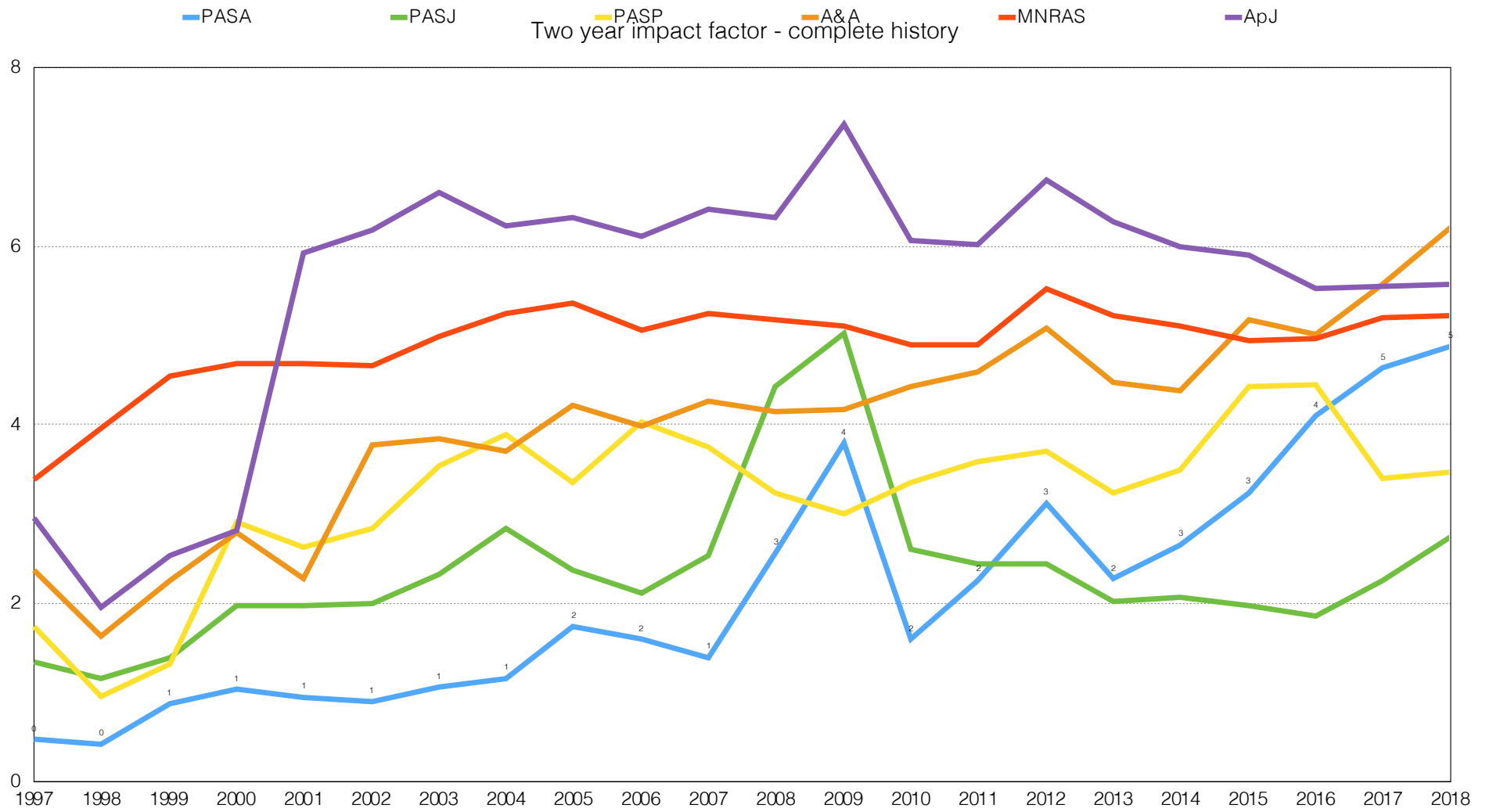
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JOURNAL PERFORMANCE: IMPACT FACTOR

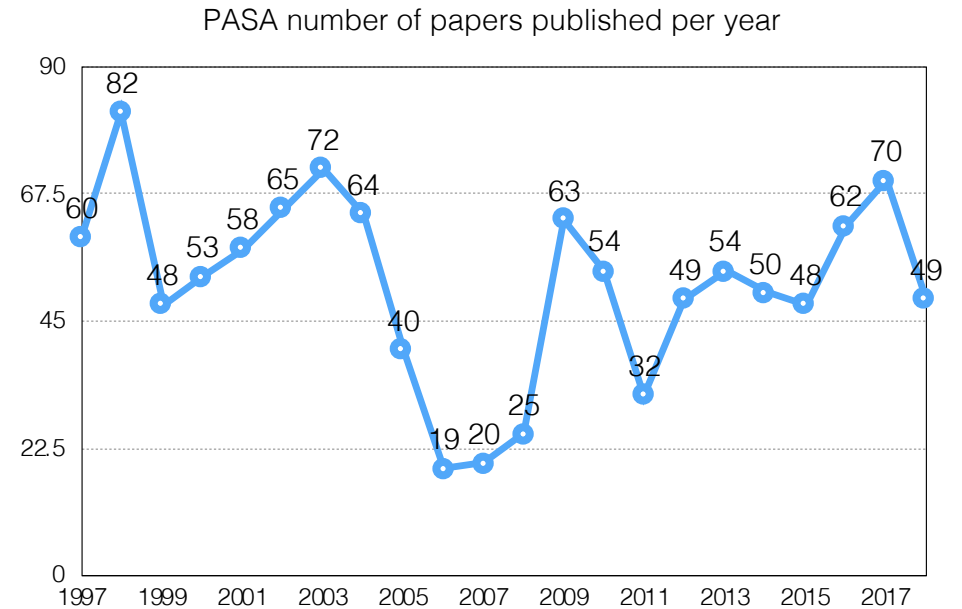
- ▶ PASA's Impact Factor continues to rise with the latest results just out showing an increase to 4.878.
- ▶ PASA thus continues for a second year as a top quartile astronomical journal.
- ▶ My thanks to my fellow EB members for this.
- ▶ PASA's success is only a reflection of the support of the community in submitting high-quality papers - so this success belongs to all the PASA authors!





JOURNAL PERFORMANCE: PAPERS PUBLISHED

- In 2018 we published 49 papers which was down from 70 in 2017.
- However the total number of published pages increased.
- This speaks to fact that PASA is publishing, longer, higher impact papers than in previous years.
- ASA Council approved an increase in the pages published to 1140 per annum.



JOURNAL PERFORMANCE: CITATIONS

- ▶ 2018: 49 papers with 302 citations. 38/49 with at least 1 citation.
 - ▶ 2017: 70 papers with 316 citations. 57/70 with at least 1 citation
 - ▶ 2016: 62 papers with 332 citations. 50/62 with at least 1 citation.
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- ▶ 2018: 6.1 citations per paper, 77.5% with at least 1 citation
 - ▶ 2017: 4.5 citations per paper, 81% with at least 1 citation
 - ▶ 2016: 5.3 citations per paper, 80.5% with at least 1 citation
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- ▶ These data suggest the IF remains on an upward trajectory.

ACCEPTANCE RATES AND TIMES

- ▶ The acceptance rate for 2018 was **43%** and the effective rejection rate was **50%** (43% based on Editorial decisions, 7% withdraws or lapses).
- ▶ The rejection rate has remained fairly constant over the last 3 years. The acceptance rate has decreased from 50.6% (2017) and 58.5% (2016)
- ▶ The ave. time from submission to acceptance was **117 days** in the first half of 2018 and **138 days** in the second half. The average time from submission to acceptance for papers with a single revision was **68 days**.
- ▶ The ave. time from submission to first decision was **50 days** compared with 34.5 in 2017 and 36 days in 2016. However, the ave. time from submission to a first decision was 40 days in the first half of 2018, which demonstrates an increase in processing time in the second half of 2018. This has been traced to 3 reasons.

REASONS FOR INCREASED PROCESSING TIME IN Q3 AND Q4 2018

- ▶ 1) Periods in which the Editorial Board were on leave
 - ▶ 2) Referee Fatigue
 - ▶ 3) Technical issues for papers on which the EiC is a co-author
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- ▶ **EB leave:** July holidays and the Christmas/New Year break were two periods with markedly decreased processing times for papers. For July this will be addressed with an Editorial Board calendar. For Christmas there is very little that can be done. During that time the entire EB and most of the referees are on leave. Yet this is also when submissions increase (there is a peak just before Christmas). Either people need to understand that processing will be slower over Christmas and New Year or PASA should stop accepting manuscripts from mid Dec - mid Jan.

REASONS FOR INCREASED PROCESSING TIME IN Q3 AND Q4 2018

- ▶ **Referee Fatigue:** We have seen an increase in referee fatigue where referees either take far longer than the notional 3-weeks to review, or bail on their reviews after 6 weeks.
- ▶ **Solution:** PASA has a tendency to have more senior referees who are time poor. What we need is to expand the referring pool to ECRs. So will issue a call for potential PASA reviewers who are ECRs to nominate or be nominated.
- ▶ **Technical issues for papers on which the EiC is a co-author:** this is an issue with ScholarOne. It can only be managed by co-authors and the EiC being proactive about notifying CUP of paper delays, requesting manual intervention. Unfortunately since the EiC is on several PASA papers, this was a significant issue for averaging processing times.

VALUE ADDED SERVICES

- ▶ The PASA Data Store continues to be available to deposit data files associated with papers. This service is provided by the gSTAR Data Management Service
- ▶ The Overleaf trial was concluded and Overleaf will now be a regular service for PASA submitters.
- ▶ CUP implemented the use of ORCID's for the submitting author of PASA papers in May. This will allow better tracking of papers and associations with funding.



2018 SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

”**SkyMapper Southern Survey: First Data Release (DR1)**”, by Wolf et al. with 70 citations since Feb 2018

“**Phantom: A smoothed particle hydrodynamics and magnetohydrodynamics code for astrophysics**” by Price et al., which is in press is a landmark publication describing the Phantom code which is significant piece of work and has 60 citations since September 2018

“**Source Finding in the Era of the SKA (Precursors): Aegean 2.0**” by Hancock et al. with 21 citations since March 2018

In addition, Wolf et al. “**Discovery of the Most Ultra-Luminous QSO Using *GAIA*, SkyMapper, and *WISE***” generated a large amount of media attention.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Melanie Johnston-Hollitt, Curtin University, Australia (Editor-in-Chief)

Daniel Price, Monash University, Australia (Deputy Editor)

Alexander Heger, Monash University, Australia (Associate Editor)

Michele Trenti, U. Melb, Australia (Associate Editor)

Stephen Sarjeant, Open University, UK (Associate Editor)

Stas Shabala, University of Tasmania, Australia (Associate Editor)

Katie Auchetti, Niels Bohr Institute, Denmark (Associate Editor)

Next call for Board members will be in October 2019 to replace Heger.

POLICY BREACH

- ▶ In Q2 2019 we had a serious submission policy breach.
- ▶ ASA members are reminded that 1) papers can only be submitted to PASA with the explicit permission of all authors and 2) it is the responsibility of all authors to ensure the contents of papers are suitable for publication.
- ▶ It is not the job of PASA's EB to deal with external collaboration disputes after publication.
- ▶ PASA is happy to work with authors to address issues where they do arise.
- ▶ PASA is committed to support high-quality papers from the Australian and global communities and welcomes team papers, particularly those that are Australian-led.