

PASA Report to ASA AGM

24 June 2024

*Ivo Seitzzahl, Editorial Board Chair
Minor updates: Minh Huynh*

1. Executive summary

PASA has experienced an increase in the number of submissions compared to previous years. Compared to the average of the 1 January - 9 June time period in the calendar years 2021 - 2023, the number of submissions in 2024 have almost doubled. The increase in submissions to PASA may be a reflection of the flip of MNRAS to open access.

PASA's 2022 Impact Factor is 6.3, slightly down from the previous year's all-time high of 6.5. In spite of this slight drop, I note that PASA remains a Q1 journal and has actually risen one spot in the IF category ranking from 11/69 to 10/69 journals. Turnaround times and acceptance/rejection rates appear more or less steady. The 2023 Impact Factor is not out yet at the time of writing, however, I anticipate a significant drop. The number of publications in the prior 2 years are quite steady, but citation numbers are down for 2023.

The current Editor-in-Chief (Ivo Seitzzahl) has decided to step down from his role at the end of 2024. ASA Council has approved current Deputy Editor-in-Chief Minh Huynh to take over from 1 January 2025.

CUP is on track to flip PASA to open access in 2025, following their communicated timeline.

2. Editorial board

The members of the Editorial Board are currently Ivo Seitzzahl (Editor-in-Chief), Minh Huynh (Deputy Editor-in-Chief, CSIRO), Dimitris Stamatellos (University of Central Lancashire, UK), Anna Kapinska (NRAO, Socorro, NM, USA), Pablo Saz-Parkinson (University of California Santa Cruz, CA, USA), Evanthia Hatziminaoglou (ESO Garching, Germany) and Andrew Hopkins (Macquarie University, Australia). The nominal end dates of the 3 year terms of all editors are:

- Dimitris Stamatellos: December 2024
- Anna Kapinska: August 2025
- Pablo Saz Parkinson: December 2025
- Ivo Seitzzahl: December 2025
- Minh Huynh: December 2025
- Evanthia Hatziminaoglou: December 2026
- Andrew Hopkins: December 2026

The term of Dimitris Stamatellos is thus coming to an end this year. A new associate editor position will therefore need to be advertised soon.

The current EiC, Ivo Seitzzahl, will step down from the EiC position at the end of this year.

3. PASA performance

3.1. Submissions

PASA has experienced an increase in submissions in 2024. Effective from the 2024 volume, CUP is no longer setting or aiming to enforce a volume page budget for PASA as this is largely redundant

due to the nature of the journal (e-only and continuous publication). The increase in manuscripts is therefore not an issue in this regard.

1 Jan - 9 June	Research and Review articles			By country	
	Original	Revised	Total	Australia	India
2021	73	32	105	39	11
2022	61	44	105	37	11
2023	44	41	85	46	6
2024	112	65	177	72	22

The table shows the increase in submissions year-on-year for the same 1 January to 9 June time period in the years 2021 - 2024. There is a particularly strong rise in original submissions in 2024, a factor of 1.9 higher than the average of the 3 years prior. The increase cannot be traced to any particular country, with both Australian submissions and submissions from other countries like India showing similar trends. While submissions appear up for both countries, it is worth pointing out that the “Accept Ratio” is much higher for Australia compared to India, as detailed in the table below that shows manuscripts accepted by country so far in 2024.

Country/Region	Accept	Reject	Total	Accept Ratio
Armenia	1	1	2	50.00%
Australia	27	5	32	84.38%
Brazil	0	1	1	0.00%
China	1	2	3	33.33%
Colombia	0	1	1	0.00%
Egypt	0	1	1	0.00%
France	0	2	2	0.00%
Germany	1	0	1	100.00%
India	3	10	13	23.08%
Iran	1	2	3	33.33%
Israel	0	1	1	0.00%
Italy	1	1	2	50.00%
Japan	1	0	1	100.00%
Kuwait	0	1	1	0.00%
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	0.00%
Malaysia	0	2	2	0.00%
Mexico	1	1	2	50.00%
New Zealand	1	0	1	100.00%
Poland	1	0	1	100.00%
Russian Federation	2	2	4	50.00%

3.2. PASA turnaround times and other metrics for 2023

	Days to First Decision (Median)			
Decision Type	2020	2021	2022	2023
Major Revision	37	38	38	41
Minor Revision	33	38	40	38
Reject	30	29	33	32
Reject – inappropriate	3	2	4	3
Reject & Resubmit	35	33	37	36

The median turnaround times (days to first decision) have remained remarkably steady over the past 4 years. This is a reflection of the diligent work the associate editors and reviewers are putting into ensuring that PASA delivers a high-quality publication experience for our authors.

3.3. 2023 IF estimate

Preliminary calculations from the data on adsabs.harvard.edu indicate a significant drop in impact factor. The 123 publications from 2021 and 2022 attracted 541 citations from refereed papers in 2023. If correct, this would imply a 2023 impact factor of 4.4.

4. PASA publishing contract and Open Access

The ASA and Cambridge University Press (CUP) have signed a new 5-year contract (2023-2027), which is now in effect. The financial situation following the flip to OA thus appears steady. How the increase in submissions (if it remains at elevated levels) will affect the bottom line is however still unclear.

A reminder on Open Access timelines: the flip to OA will happen later this year, so that PASA is open access for 2025. All manuscripts submitted after 25th November 2024 will require either a transformative agreement in place, a discretionary waiver, or pay an article processing charge.

Article Processing Charge (APC)

With regards to APC pricing, the 2024 prices are: £2320/\$3450. For 2025, the GBP price will go up 6% to **£2460** and the USD price will go up 3% to **\$3555**. This brings the USD/GBP ratio closer to current exchange rates and in line with other APC values.

Reduced APC for ASA members: As discussed previously, we have negotiated a 20% discount on the APC rate for ASA Members. These reduced values will therefore be **£1968** and **\$2844**.

5. PASA Overleaf Template

PASA currently still has a shared template on Overleaf. The template name is *Cambridge Large2*, which is not ideal as it looks different from a typeset PASA article and it is not as straightforward to find as a dedicated PASA template (with an appropriate name) would be. There continue to be technical issues with this template, some of which appear to be resolved when using an old (legacy) LaTeX compiler.

At the last Council meeting, the extra costs for moving to a dedicated PASA template was approved. While this decision was immediately communicated to CUP, the switch has not yet been implemented. I (and other PASA editors) have (once again) reminded CUP that a timely implementation of the new template would be advantageous for the journal as a whole.