

HYDROLOGICAL SCIENCES JOURNAL

Provided by Lottie Rundall, *HSJ* Editorial Manager

OVERVIEW

- The Editorial Office of *HSJ* is staffed by Lottie Rundall (LR) and Kate Hill (KHi), who between them manage the progress of manuscripts from submission to publication with Taylor & Francis (T&F) as well as admin relating to the Editorial Board. KHi and LR work with a hybrid model, partly in-house and partly from home. Regular (monthly) online editorial meetings – Editorial Office and Co-editors – are usually joined by the Portfolio Manager at T&F, Harriet Konishi (HK), and also frequently by IAHS Treasurer and Chair Kate Heal (KH) (other IAHS officers are invited to attend).
- The partnership with T&F continues to work well. The valuable expertise and professionalism of the T&F team – providing support with both the ScholarOne Manuscripts (S1M) peer-review system, production of final articles and maintenance of the journal pages on T&F Online (TFO; www.tandfonline.com/thsj) – is greatly appreciated.
- The journal is published under the hybrid publishing model, whereby authors have the option to pay a one-off article publishing charge (APC) to T&F to make their paper open access immediately (Gold Open Access); otherwise, access is via subscription or pay-per-view. In addition, *Panta Rhei* opinion papers, discussions and reviews are free to view. After two years, all articles are automatically free to view (i.e. a complete volume becomes free to view after two years).
- Promotion continues in the form of free-to-view “featured articles”, with details disseminated by T&F in press releases and via social media, including by *HSJ* and IAHS (also including our new newsletter *HSJ Digest*, plus a listing on the IAHS website); Open Access articles are also highlighted in *HSJ Digest*. Featured (and other eligible) articles are shortlisted for the Tison Award. Featured articles and Tison Award papers are free to view at dedicated TFO web pages.
- Supplementary materials (e.g. datasets, additional images, videos) may be linked to published papers and are free to view, frequently attracting more citations.

Impact Factor

The journal Impact Factor (Clarivate Web-of-Science IF) reported in 2025 (Journal Citation Reports for 2024) is down on the previous year (see **Table 1** below). *HSJ* is ranked 72/279 (Q2) in the Scimago Water Science and Technology category (cf. 59/266 in 2023) and 58/131 (Q2) in the Web-of-Science Water Resources category (cf. 45/127 in 2023).

While it is well known that climbing journal rankings is not *HSJ*'s primary focus, the editorial team and T&F portfolio manager are working together closely to address the recent decrease in *HSJ*'s impact. Following the release of the 2025 rankings, several online meetings were held to identify strategies for boosting *HSJ*'s visibility at both the editorial and

publishing/distributional levels. Key actions include increasing HSJ's social media presence, promoting HSJ within the IAHS community, and emphasizing the citation of recent HSJ studies. At the editorial level, efforts will concentrate on attracting high-quality papers, reassessing desk-rejection criteria, encouraging IAHS medallists to submit papers, and setting specific annual goals for commentaries, review papers, and special issues.

Editors' Retreat at IAHS 2025, Roorkee IIT, will provide an excellent opportunity for further planning future promotional strategies.

Table 1 Current and 5-year impact factors in recent years.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Impact factor	2.061	2.180	2.186	3.787	3.942	3.5	2.8	2.5
Five-year IF	2.274	2.510	2.564	3.502	3.879	3.7	3.9	3.3

Usage

T&F reported 378,021 full-text downloads 1 Jan – 30 June 2025 (cf 842,366 in 2024 and 880,000 in 2023).

Submissions

- 455 new submissions have been received so far in 2025 (cf. 391 for the same period in 2024) via ScholarOne Manuscripts (S1M), comprising original articles, special issue papers, technical notes, opinion papers, discussions and replies, and reviews. This suggests that 2025 will surpass 2024 (see **Table 2**). Descriptions of article types are made available online in the Instructions for Authors. All submissions are routinely subjected to a Crossref similarity check (using iThenticate software) and a decision about suitability for review is made by the relevant editor. Some submissions are rejected outright, being unsuitable for *HSJ*. **Table 2** details submission/review statistics of new and revised manuscripts submitted to HSJ.

Table 2 Statistics for submission/review of papers.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
New submissions	527	705	659	668	757	630	593	784	455
Revised papers	228	269	312	259	317	228	222	350	168
Accepted papers	126	122	157	182	171	143	132	197	85
Rejected papers	407	495	543	515	564	425	418	537***	302***
Acceptance rate**	24%	25%	28%	26%	23%	26%	26%	26%	19%
Submission to first decision	61 d	66 d	55 d	49 d	50 d	65 d	45 d	33 d	33 d

* To 27 Jun 2025

** Acceptance rate: ratio of accepted over submitted papers

*** includes 'Reject & resubmit' decisions

- Submissions of new and revised manuscripts to the S1M site are handled by Editorial Assistant KHi, with advice as required from LR and the editors, and technical support from T&F.

Production

- Accepted papers are checked for completeness by LR before being sent to T&F where they are initially published online as author manuscripts (with a disclaimer) before being copy-edited and typeset by T&F. Proofs are checked by authors (and c. 50% of them also by LR) and the corrected final Version of Record is published online prior to being assigned to the next available issue.
- All issues of volume 69 (2024) of *HSJ* were published on time and comprised ~157 pp per issue. **Table 3** summarizes the number of scientific papers published annually in *HSJ* since 2019, and the page length of each volume.

Table 3 Summary of scientific articles published and extent of *HSJ* (2019–2024); differences between the no. of accepted and published papers in a given year are associated with the production workflow.

	2019 (vol. 64)	2020 (vol. 65)	2021 (vol. 66)	2022 (vol. 67)	2023 (vol. 68)	2024 (vol. 69)	2025 (vol. 70)*
Articles	145	197	169	170	156	163	112
Total pp.	2135	2826	2446	2550	2377	2507	1759

* to 27 June 2025

Associate Editors

The number of associate editors (AEs) continues to be in the region of 60. New AEs are invited each year to fill vacancies due to retirement (usually after 3 or 6 years) and serve for three years in the first instance. Other appointments are made mid-year as and when required.

The Editorial Board will meet in October 2025 in Roorkee IIT during the 2025 *HSJ* Editors Retreat. The hybridized meeting spans two afternoons (October, 5 & 6), each lasting roughly three hours. The first afternoon will kick off with a quick update on the state of editorial affairs from the Co-Editors and the Publisher (Taylor & Francis). Both afternoons will be dedicated to open discussion and synthesis of the topics covered. Discussions will focus on relevant subjects for journal management and growth, suggested or picked by the editorial board. The setting will be very informal, and associate editors are encouraged to give "pop-up" presentations on what they consider to be pressing/concerning/important issues and matters. Specifically, a couple of crucial topics will be addressed: (a) *HSJ*'s struggle to attract visibility and citations, and (b) the use of artificial intelligence in research and scientific dissemination.

Awards

- The 2024 AE and Reviewer awards for outstanding service to the Journal were decided as follows:
 - **AE Award** – Marina Batalini de Macedo
 - **Reviewer Awards** (x5) – Ciro Apollonio, Abinash Ganapathy, Sujay Naganna, Dinesh Kumar Vishwakarma and Andrzej Wałęga.
- The Frances Watkins Memorial Award was given in 2024 to John R. Nimmo for his article “New insights on the origin of the Richardson-Richards equation” (*HSJ*, 69:15, pp. 2153-2158; doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2024.2404714)

Noteworthy papers

- **Post-fire hydrologic analysis: a tale of two severities** (by K. Fallon et al.) (<https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2023.2284306>), published in December 2024, has achieved an Altmetric score of 379 (top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric); T&F made the article free to view for two months.
- **Revisiting the greenhouse effect – a hydrological perspective** (by D. Koutsoyiannis and Christos Vournas) (<https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2023.2287047>) attracted a lot of attention early on, and its Altmetric score peaked at 1,047.
- **HELPING Decade**
We have some major community papers published and in review:
 - **The IAHS Science for Solutions decade, with Hydrology Engaging Local People IN a Global world** – a HELPING community opinion paper , with 125 co-authors, was published in August 2024 and has received nearly 9,000 views (<https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2024.2355202>).
 - **Hydrological design in the HELPING decade – inspiring the community to innovate the hydrological design concept**, by Svenja Fischer et al, published in January 2025, is gaining traction with over 1,000 views to date and one citation: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2024.2436634>
 - **Co-creating water knowledge: a community perspective and Effective communication in the face of water crises: a community perspective on challenges and best practices in HELPING**, each with a team of over 50 authors led respectively by Giulio Castelli and Christina Orieschnig, are both currently in review.
- **Panta Rhei**
In April *HSJ* published a community paper to formally close the decade, with c.100

authors (led by Heidi Kreibich): **Panta Rhei: a decade of progress in research on change in hydrology and society**(<https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2025.2469762>)

So far this has garnered over 4,000 views.

Special issues

Virtual Special Issues are housed under a 'Collections' tab on the T&F website: [Article collections from Hydrological Sciences Journal \(tandfonline.com\)](#); articles in standalone Special Issues are published initially online and then grouped together to form a single issue online and in print.

Calls for Papers are currently live for three Special Issues:

- *History of Hydrology* Lead guest editor: Keith Beven (20 published, 3 in production, +/- 10 in review*)
- *Contribution of isotope hydrology to water sciences in Africa* Lead guest editor: Frédéric Huneau (3 submissions so far*; more expected in July; deadline extended to December 2025)

Special Issues in review/production:

- *Advances in hydrological science in Latin America* Lead guest editor: Pedro Chaffe (4 papers published, 2 in production, c. 35 in review*)
- *Twenty-first century hydrological challenges and opportunities in Africa* Lead guest editor: Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema (12 published, 5 in production, c. 20 in review*)

* as at 27 June 2025

HSJ Digest

Since its launch in February 2024 the editors, with IAHS Communications Officer Tarryn Payne (TP) have published 9 issues of the bi-monthly newsletter *HSJ Digest* via the IAHS website, containing news about the latest *HSJ* issues and featured and Open Access articles, together with other items of interest; our aim is to enhance awareness among the IAHS membership of the activities of *HSJ*. Copy is compiled by the Editorial Office and layouts/publication handled by TP.

4 July 2025