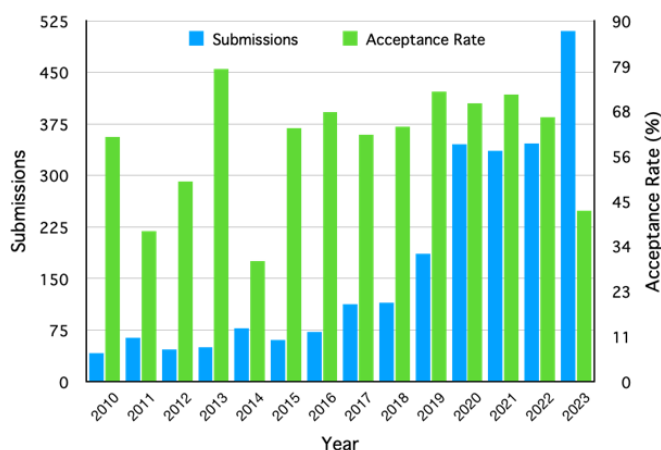


Journal Status Report 2023

Manuscript submissions to the Philippine Journal of Science (PJS; philjournalsci.dost.gov.ph) in 2023 were at 42.50 ± 13.29 per month, which is 47% higher than that (28.92 ± 8.49) in 2022. The acceptance rates in 2022 and 2023 were 66.18 and 42.68%, respectively. Presented below are figures of manuscript submissions (blue) and acceptance rate (green) from 2010–2023.

The number of submissions in 2023 was 8.5 times higher than that in 2015, whereas the acceptance rate decreased by more than 24% compared to the average rate of $67 \pm 4\%$ in the last eight years ending 2022. Without exception, the Editorial Office subjects every submission to a single-blind peer-review process involving at least two independent expert-evaluators, and an editorial decision is rendered immediately after the first round when major manuscript revision is unanimously recommended. In most cases, the final decision is made on publication suitability after two rounds of evaluation.



Duration of the peer-review process. The average length of review in 2023 was 9.45 weeks, whereas that from 2016 (29.8 weeks) to 2022 (17.37 weeks) was at 16.65 ± 6.61 weeks per year. The evaluation speed improved by 43% despite the significant increase in the number of manuscript submissions received. The review duration is reckoned from the manuscript receipt date until the time that a decision is communicated to the corresponding author by the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) concerning its publication suitability.

Submissions by discipline. The following three disciplines accounted for 47.45% of all submissions in 2023: Agriculture & Forestry (16.67%), Biology (20.98%), and Chemistry (9.8%). In 2022, the three disciplines accounting for 56.8% of all submissions were as follows: Agriculture & Forestry (23.63%); Biology (22.77%); and Nutrition, Food Science & Technology (10.37%). The figures indicate an increasing number of submissions emanating from a broad spectrum of disciplines, allowing the PJS to maintain its multidisciplinary character with no apparent tendency to evolve into a specialized journal.

Affiliation of corresponding authors. Sixty-nine percent (69.22%) of corresponding authors in 2023 were affiliated with Philippine-based institutions. In 2022 and 2021, the figures were at 76.1 and 77.4%, respectively. The average percentage of local corresponding authors from 2015–2023 was $77.91\% \pm 7.95\%$.

In 2023, 50% of submissions were the product of successful collaborations between two or more higher education institutions (HEIs) and research centers. Research collaborations have been on an increasing trend—in 2016, their outputs represented only 33.33%. The average number of authors per manuscript was 4.54 in 2023. The corresponding numbers in 2021 and 2022 were 4.6 and 4.38, respectively. The average in the last nine years ending in 2023 is 4.24 ± 0.39 .

In 2023, more than ten percent (10.4%) of corresponding authors were affiliated with the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños (5.1%), UP Diliman (2.9%), and UP Manila and Visayas State University (1.2% each). Meanwhile, those from 26 other HEIs contributed an additional 18.24%. In 2022, submissions from UP Los Baños (8.1%), UP Diliman (2.6%), and UP Mindanao (2.3%) accounted for 13% of the total, whereas another 27.38% originated from

32 other HEIs and research centers. The noticeable increase in submissions in 2023 was driven by the participation of more first-time HEIs and research centers—both domestic and foreign.

Provenance of peer-reviewers. A total of 809 experts generously served as independent reviewers, with 44.13% of them working in the country in 2023. Their numbers were 597 (domestic: 45.39%) and 652 (44.63%) in 2022 and 2021, respectively. PH-based reviewers constituted a yearly average of 45.12% from 2016–2023. The expert advice and professional vigilance of our reviewers have been critical in steadily improving the scientific content and presentation quality of PJS publications. Even for unsuccessful submissions, the constructive co-criticisms that the PJS provides to the concerned authors are helpful in enhancing the future quality of their work.

The PJS continues to enlarge its pool of local reviewers to strengthen the practice of self-regulation and meaningful participation of more Filipino scientists and researchers while recognizing the critical contribution of foreign reviewers in the transfer and diffusion of new scientific knowledge and technical expertise to the PH scientific enterprise system.

Other Developments. In 2023, the PJS published a total of six (6) bimonthly regular issues and one special issue on Philippine meteorological research in the country in November 2023. It has improved its Scopus CiteScore to 1.1 in 2022 from 0.8 in 2021, implying that the number of citations that the PJS received from 2019–2022 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters, and data papers published in 2019–2022 exceeded—for the first time—the number of publications that appeared in the four-year period from 2019–2022. Its continuing presence on social media (facebook.com/pjs.dost) has allowed the PJS to broadcast and highlight the vetted findings of Filipino scientists and researchers to a wider audience.

The journal publisher (Department of Science and Technology, DOST) continues to waive journal publication charges for accepted articles, which are fully accessible online without subscription restriction. Due to budgetary constraints, the PJS only produces printed copies of the four regular quarterly issues per volume while publishing only the focused (special) and supplementary issues online.

Editorial policies. The PJS only disseminates research results that are original, novel, and scientifically significant. The methodologies used during investigation must also adhere to the highest ethical standards that are accepted and practiced in the scientific community, and they must be compliant with existing Philippine laws and regulations.

It has been proactive and vigilant in implementing the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 10532, RA 9147, and RA 10631 in the conduct and reporting of scientific research investigations within the Philippine archipelago. RA 10532, which institutionalizes the Philippine Health Research System, was enacted on 07 May 2013. RA 9147 is also known as an Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and Their Habitats, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes, whereas RA 10631 is an amendment of RA 8485—also known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998. In applicable cases, corresponding authors are required to show proof that the conduct of their research investigations complies with their implementing rules and regulations. An editorial explaining the pertinent provisions of the three Philippine laws with respect to the ethical conduct of scientific research was published in the August 2022 issue.

The PJS is a veritable source of information about the current state of scientific R&D in the Philippines, as well as a training ground for the next generation of Filipino scientists and researchers. It is a critical instrument for strengthening the practice of self-regulation and metric-based decision-making in the Philippine science community and society at large.

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Editor-in-Chief