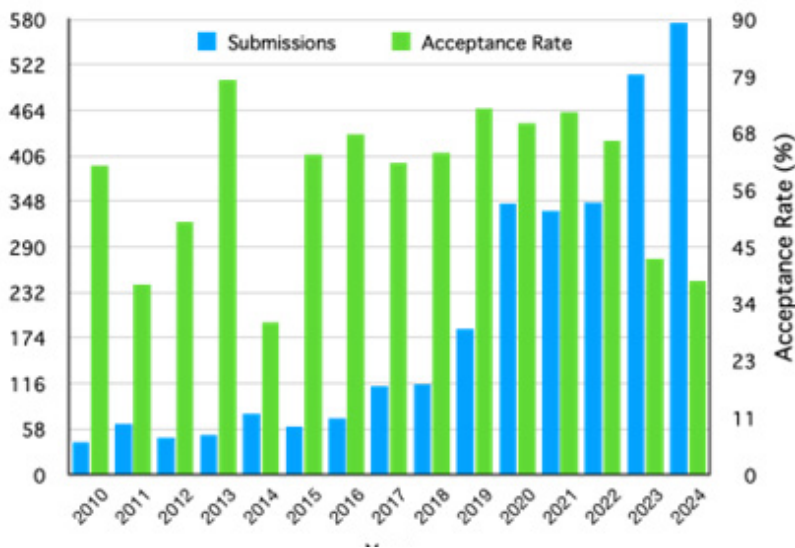


Journal Status Report 2024

Manuscript submissions to the Philippine Journal of Science (PJS; philjournalsci.dost.gov.ph) in 2024 were at 47.92 ± 12.91 per month, which is 12.8% higher than that (42.50 ± 13.29) in 2023. The acceptance rates in 2023 and 2024 were 42.68 and 38.27%, respectively. In Volume 153, the PJS started publishing articles in sections according to scientific discipline instead of the “first-in, first-out” sequence practiced in the previous years. This new scheme will help readers find articles that are of immediate interest to them. Presented below is the number of manuscript submissions (blue) and the acceptance rate (green) per year from 2010–2024.

Submissions in 2024 were 9.43 times higher than the number in 2015, whereas the acceptance rate decreased by more than 25% as compared to the average rate of $64 \pm 9\%$ in the last nine years ending 2023. Without exception, the Editorial Office subjects every submission to a two-step, single-blind, peer-review process involving at least two independent expert evaluators, and an editorial decision is rendered immediately after the first round of peer-review when major manuscript revision is unanimously recommended. In most cases, the final decision is made on publication suitability after two rounds of evaluation. All submissions first undergo a similarity test, and only those that score five percent or less proceed to the peer-review phase.



Duration of the peer-review process. The average length of review in 2024 was 10.38 weeks, whereas that from 2016 (29.8 weeks) to 2023 (9.45 weeks) was 15.75 ± 6.63 weeks per year. The review duration is reckoned from the manuscript receipt date until a decision is communicated to the corresponding author by the Editor-in-Chief concerning its publication suitability.

Submissions by discipline. The following disciplines accounted for 50.78% of all submissions in 2024: Biology (24.35%), Agriculture & Forestry (13.39%), and Social Sciences (13.04%). In 2023, the following disciplines accounted for a total of 56.8% of all submissions: Biology (20.98%), Agriculture & Forestry (16.67%), and Chemistry (10.37%). The Social Sciences cracked into the top three in 2024 for the first time since 2015 when submissions by disciplines were first tracked.

Affiliation of corresponding authors. Sixty-five (65%) percent of corresponding authors in 2024 were affiliated with Philippine-based institutions. In 2023 and 2022, the figures were at 69 and 76%, respectively. The average percentage of local corresponding authors from 2015–2024 was $76\% \pm 8\%$.

In 2024, 48.17% of submissions were the product of successful collaborations between two or more higher education institutions (HEIs) and research centers as compared to 33.33% in 2016. The average number of authors per manuscript was 4.98 in 2024. The corresponding numbers in 2022 and 2023 were 4.38 and 4.98, respectively. The average in the last nine years ending in 2024 is 4.32 ± 0.46 .

In 2024, almost thirteen percent (12.39%) of corresponding authors were with the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños (5.3%), UP Diliman (4%), and Mindanao State University–Iligan Institute of Technology (2.1%). Those based in the other 42 HEIs contributed a total of 17.22%. In 2023, submissions from UP Los Baños (5.1%), UP Diliman (2.9%), and UP Manila and Visayas State University (1.2% each) accounted for 10.4% of the total, whereas another 18.24% originated from 27 other HEIs and research centers. Submissions from first-time HEIs and research centers continued to increase in 2024.

Provenance of peer-reviewers. A record total of 990 experts generously served as independent reviewers, with 45.96% of them working in the country in 2024. Their numbers were 809 (domestic: 44.13%) and 597 (45.39%) in 2023 and 2022, respectively. PH-based reviewers constituted a yearly average of 48.26% from 2016–2024. 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 criticisms that the PJS provides to the concerned authors were 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 gaining 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 2024, the PJS published a total of six (6) bimonthly regular issues and one special issue on Philippine Nuclear Science and Technology Research in November 2024. The PJS has improved its Scopus CiteScore to 1.2 in 2023 from 1.1 in 2022. Its continuing presence on social media ([facebook.com/pjs.dost](https://www.facebook.com/pjs.dost)) has also allowed it to broadcast and highlight 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.

The PJS only disseminates research results that are original, novel, and scientifically significant. The conduct and methodologies used during investigations must always adhere to the highest ethical standards demanded by the leading scientific journals in the global science community. In addition, they must also be compliant with existing Philippine laws and regulations.

The PJS has been proactive and vigilant in implementing the provisions of the Republic Act (RA) Nos. 10532, 9147, and 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.

In view of the increasing number of submissions, the PJS strives to serve as a reliable source of scientific information about the current state of scientific research and development in the Philippines, as well as a valuable training ground for the next generations 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