

2002 Annual Report of the BSA Publications Committee

2001-2002 BSA Publications Committee:

Nancy Dengler, Chair
Pamela Diggle
Darleen DeMason
Joe Leverich
Scott Russell
Jonathan Wendel
Karl Niklas, *ex officio*
Marsh Sundberg, *ex officio*
Kim Hiser, *ex officio*

The BSA Publications Committee discussed four proposals related to electronic publication of the American Journal of Botany and made recommendations to the Executive Committee. Other issues relating to BSA publications, such as the revised pricing schedule for online subscriptions, will be presented by the Executive Committee. The Editor-in-Chief will report on the current status of manuscript backlog reduction.

1. e-letters

The committee supported the proposal to initiate electronic letters to the editor of the American Journal of Botany. HighWire Press will offer for each paper a hyperlink to an e-letters site where readers can submit comments, criticisms, and questions about that specific paper. The AJB Editor-in-Chief, Karl Niklas, in consultation with the Editorial Board, submitted a draft policy for e-letters that was ratified by the Executive Committee.

2. CiteTrack

The committee supported the proposal to purchase (\$1500) the CiteTrack utility that allows registered viewers to sign up for a daily watch on specific keywords or authors names in about 200 HighWire Press journals. This feature is to be inaugurated with online subscriptions.

3. Hold-back charge for pay-per-view

The committee supported the proposal for a \$2500 hold-back charge to cover costs incurred by HighWire Press for developing the AJB pay-per-view site. According to this model, HWP would hold back the first \$2500 of revenue and then share subsequent revenue on a 50:50 basis with the BSA.

4. eIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries Project)

HighWire Press is joining other publishers (Blackwell, Elsevier, Harcourt, Springer, Wiley, etc.) in providing discounts for online subscriptions for countries in 3 categories ("developing", "impoverished", and "not well off"). An advantage of joining this initiative is that AJB will be exposed to institutions that might not subscribe to AJB individually, but would wish to receive it as part of a package.