

IAU COMMISSION C2 CAPJOURNAL WORKING GROUP

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TRIENNIAL REPORT 2015-2018

Since August 2015 we have published six issues of the journal, Communicating Astronomy to the Public. One of these, published in March 2016, was a special 50-page feature issue dedicated to the communication and engagement campaigns around the Rosetta mission. To create this issue we worked in close collaboration with the ESA communications team and others involved in the campaign.

In addition to this we have also put considerable work into the improvement of the journal's peer review process this year. We now have an external panel of ten public engagement and science communication professionals dedicated to reviewing CAPjournal submissions prior to acceptance, in addition to the editorial and working group reviews. This has, we feel, significantly improved the quality of CAPjournal articles, as we can now provide every author with detailed feedback and revision suggestions from the editor and reviewer, ensuring that the finally submitted article is of a higher standard, as well as having the capacity to be more discerning about the submissions we select and those we do not.

We have also, since August 2015, begun a collaboration with EBSCO Information Services. CAPjournal is now available on EBSCO's scientific databases, increasing exposure of the journal in universities and research institutes; more than 113000 libraries have access to EBSCO's databases.

A resubscription campaign for the journal to reassess circulation (printed and online) and have been gradually refreshing the website throughout 2016, including adding new information on the peer review and submissions processes to improve clarity and transparency.

In 2017, the publishing service of CAPjournal is moved from European Southern Observatory to the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) based in National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) in Tokyo, Japan. Issue 23 was published by the OAO.

A questionnaire for the readers was made available online in February 2018 and result

will be useful for improvements for the future issues.

We also opened a call for papers for the special issue on solar eclipses, which is planned for February 2019.

The future plans of the WG is to implement the suggestions from the readers feedback, further enhance the editorial and peer review process, and increase submissions on the research and applications papers.

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