

Acoustical Society of America

Spring 2021 Meeting Agenda for Committee on Publication Policy Virtual Meeting

- Final Minutes -

Date & Location: Wednesday, 2 June, 2021, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (EDT), Virtual Meeting.

Members present: Vladimir Ostashev (Chair to 2021), Roger Waxler (2021), Cynthia Clopper (2021), Keith Wilson (2021), John Colosi (2022), Whitney Coyle (2022), Michael Haberman (2022), Michael Muhlestein (2022), Alan Wall (2023), Laura Kloepper (2023), Eddie Lau (2023)

Members not present: Megan Ballard (2021), Thomas Wong (2023)

Ex-Officio Members: Jim Lynch (Editor-in-Chief)

Guests present: Charles Church (Editor, JASA EL), Art Popper (Editor, Acoustics Today), Matt Kershis (AIPP), Liz Bury (JASA/JASA-EL Senior Managing Editor), Helen Wall Murray (POMA Manuscript Manager), Kat Setzer (Editorial Assistant, ASA Publications), Student Council representative

Committee Charge:

37. COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION POLICY

37.1 Charged with reviewing and suggesting changes in the policy, contents, and format of the Journal and other Society publications, but excluding the ASA book program and Standards, for consideration by the Editor-in-Chief and the Executive Council, and proposing new publications.

37.2 Composed of the Chair and members appointed by the President, and the Editor-in-Chief and President-Elect as ex-officio members.

1. Update on the ASA journals and AIP Publishing initiatives that are relevant to the ASA publications

Kershis updated on two topics: (i) Data availability policy at the AIPP. After requiring data availability statements in February 2020, the AIPP decided to add questions in its submission system to make this process easier. If authors already have a statement in their manuscript, they can skip these questions. If there is no statement, the authors are shown the most common statements or helped to generate other statements. Once the statement is generated, it is inserted into the paper at the proof stage between Acknowledgments and References. The AIPP is working with figshare to see how they can help to store data. figshare is a general-purpose repository that accepts all types of data in any format. (ii) The AIPP recommends that JASA adopts a “license to publish” as opposed to a “transfer of copyright” license.

2. Data availability statements in the ASA publications

Lynch and Bury explained data availability statements in the ASA publications. Although such statements are currently not required, the ASA publications do agree with the AIPP

policies and will gradually implemented them. It was emphasized that data availability has never been an issue in the ASA publications.

The Committee discussed this topic and agreed with a gradual implementation of the data availability statements in the ASA publications.

3. Letter from the Focused Ultrasound Foundation

Lynch Lynch outlined a letter which he received from the Focused Ultrasound Foundation (FUF). This foundation sponsors research in medical ultrasound and has specific requirements in publishing the corresponding results such as data, code, and materials transparency, data citation, reporting guidelines, and preregistration.

The Committee discussed the letter. It was emphasized that most probably, these are very good requirements in medical sciences. However, JASA is a broadband journal and papers related to medical sciences comprise a relatively small percentage. It would be very strange if not infeasible to impose these requirements for the entire journal. The Committee decided to help with a polite response to FUF (Lynch, Bury, Clopper, Ostashev).

4. JASA IF

Lynch reiterated that JASA is a very broadband journal which serves scientists, engineers, technical personnel, and practitioners. This is a strength of the Society, which is reflected in the Journal. But this broadband nature can, and seemingly does, adversely affect its impact factor (IF). More practical papers get downloaded heavily, but not cited as much. IF also significantly varies by TC. JASA, as structured, and keeping in line with the ASA as a whole, must treat all TC's equally.

The Committee discussed the role of IF and how to improve it. It was argued that although the JASA IF is still below 2 (the target), the number of submitted and published papers, as well as downloads are steady/improving. It was suggested that Members and Guests of the Committee can directly communicate further with EIC Lynch about this topic.