

Annals of Forest Science

Annual Report for 2014

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Foreword

It is our pleasure to introduce the Annual Report of our Journal for 2014. 2014 was a very active year as we launched a number of novel initiatives. We have now an editorial board at Nancy with four members to share the work load around AFS. The network of associate editors is very active and covers all continents. A large number of guest editors have been or still are active around some topical issues. We are now actively present on Twitter, we have a blog dedicated to the activities of the journal, we are currently working over several thematic issues dealing with important issues for forest and wood science, we developed, in cooperation with IT specialists of Inra, a close link with the open archive “HAL”, we are preparing a thematic issue to celebrate the 50 years of Annals of Forest Science, and we are participating to an initiative to launch a IUFRO working party on Science Editing in forest and wood science.

Indeed, there was only one negative signal during 2014: the ISI impact factor of AFS decreased. We will discuss this in the following pages.

We have a vision for the future of our journal. This vision means a clear evolution towards Green Open access, as described in one of our editorials. It includes clear moves towards open data, with the launching of data papers. It bases also on a network of forest and wood science editors who will share ideas and innovations to make science publishing in our journals attractive, efficient and of high quality. The scope of the journal was refined and clarified. This is important because we need to find the niche for our journal with respect to many others in this area. For a detailed description: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13595-014-0370-8> . This new scope may be downloaded with the instructions for authors at: <http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/forestry/journal/13595?detailsPage=press>

We believe this vision will help Annals of Forest Science play a major role in the dissemination of research results and scientific information in forest and wood sciences! The journal aims at being a major outlet for this kind of science, and we will put every effort into this goal.

Hope you will enjoy reading this report!

Erwin Dreyer, Chief editor and Marianne Peiffer, Managing editor, on behalf of the Editorial Board.



Erwin Dreyer
Editor in Chief
Editorial board member
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Jean Daniel Bontemps
Associate Editor. Joined AFS in 2011. Expertise Forest dynamics (ecology and genetics) & Forestry wood chain (management, products, services). Editorial board member since 2013.



The editorial board of AFS at Nancy

Marianne Peiffer
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Editorial board member since 2011
Email:ann.for.sci@nancy.inra.fr



Jean Michel Leban
Associate Editor
Expertise:Forestry wood chain (management, products, services) & Wood sciences
Editorial board member since 2013
Co-Editor in Chief in charge of Wood Sciences since 2013



MP, 2015

1. Some indicators for AFS during 2014: IF and manuscript submission

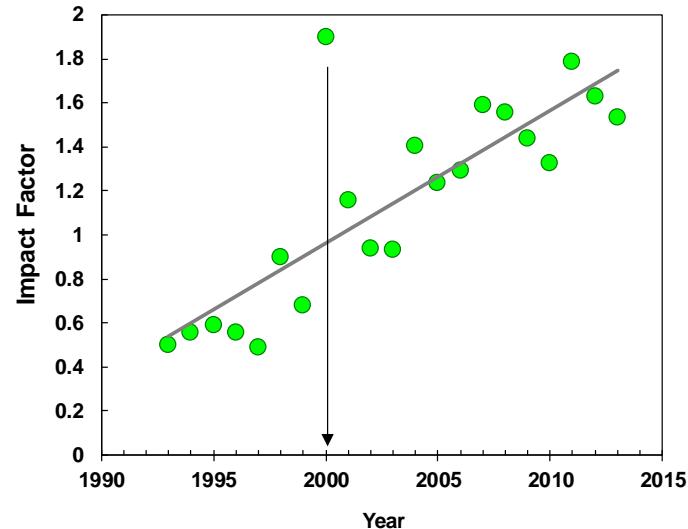


Figure 1: Time course of the impact factor of Annals of Forest Science. The 2013 (1.536) was lower than the years before. The arrow indicates the transition from “*Annales des Sciences Forestières*” to “*Annals of Forest Science*”. The very high value of 2000 is an artefact due to the change of name.

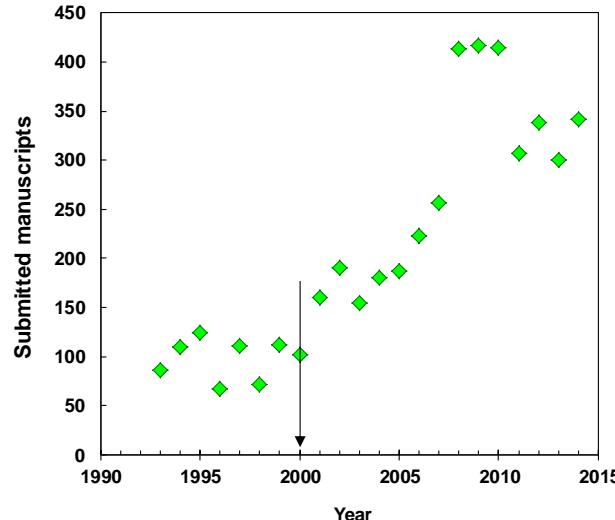


Figure 2: Time course of the number of annual manuscript submissions. We had 342 submissions during 2014, i.e., an increasing trend again after the brusque decrease that followed the change of publisher during 2011. Data analyses performed December 29, 2014

During 2014, Annals of Forest Science was published by Springer for the fourth year. The 2013 JCR Science Edition published the latest AFS's impact factor of 1.536 (Figure 1). The ranking of the journal is now 17 among 64 in the subject category “Forestry”. This result was quite a deception given the efforts put into the journal management. We no longer are in the top ranking journals (i.e., in the first quartile), which has a negative impact on the journal's reputation and therefore on the quality of the submissions. The number of submissions was 342 (Figure 2). This increase in submissions is a result of continuous efforts made to attract thematic issues and papers during congresses and scientific symposia. We will pursue this policy during the coming years.

AFS associate editors.



Aurélien Salle

Associate Editor, Joined 2014.

Expertise: Risks and disturbances (ecology and economics).

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1. Some indicators for AFS during 2014: origin of the manuscripts

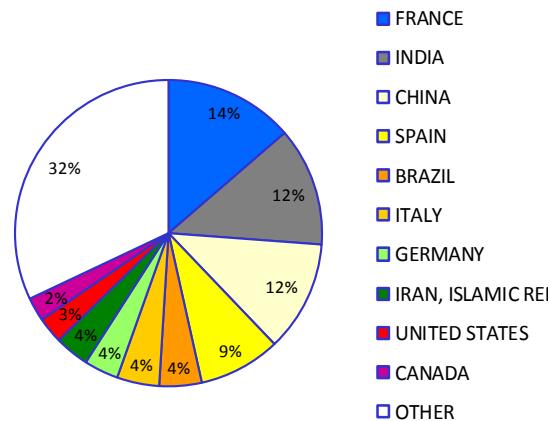


Figure 3. Geographic origin (%) of the manuscripts **submitted during 2014** with identification of the ten first countries. The other ones represented 32%. The submissions were from all around the world and rather homogeneously distributed. France ranks first in 2014 while Spain was first in 2013.

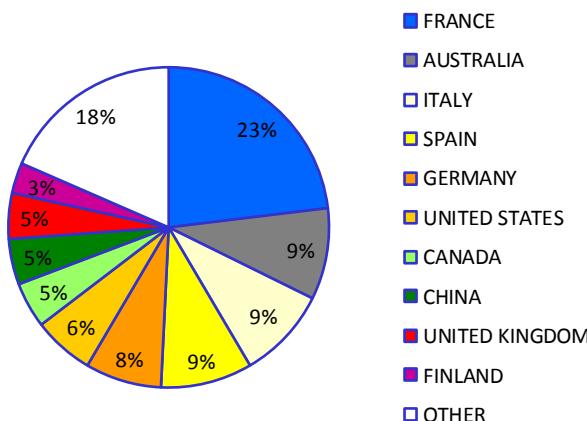


Figure 4. Geographic origin (%) of the manuscripts **published during 2014** for the ten first countries. The other ones represented 18%. France ranks first followed by Australia, Italy and Spain. China ranks for the second year in the top ten. This is an index for the increased quality of the manuscripts from China. India disappears here, as only very few manuscripts reached the quality criteria to justify publication.

The submissions originated from a large number of countries all around the world. France was the leading country. This is rather new and results directly from the involvement of French working groups in the production of thematic issues and papers during congresses. Researchers from India, China and Spain submitted a large number of manuscripts like during earlier years (Figure 3).

France was also the leading country for published papers (Figure 4). This is new but not surprising in regards to its leading position for submitted manuscripts (Figure 3). The trio Australia, Italy and Spain ranks second. This is usual for Italy and Spain and remarkable for Australia (Figure 4). All these figures show that Annals of Forest Science is a fully international journal recognized as such by an ever increasing audience.

AFS associate editors.



Ricardo Alia

Joined during 2014.

Expertise: Forest dynamics (ecology and genetics).

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1. Some indicators for AFS during 2014: IF and manuscript submission

Decisions about the manuscripts	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Rejected without review	83	27	94	28	86	29	103	30
Rejected after review	124	40	143	42	136	45	105	31
Total rejections	207	67	237	70	222	74	208	61
Accepted	98	32	95	28	74	25	65	19
Withdrawn	2	1	6	2	4	1	2	1
Still under evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	20
Total	307		338		300		342	

Table 1. Features of the decisions given for all manuscripts submitted from 2011 to 2014: N is the number of manuscripts and % is the percentage for a given year. The 2014 figures will change when a final decision is made about the 67 MS still under evaluation

Table 1 summarizes the fate of the manuscripts submitted to AFS from 2011 to 2014. The severity of our assessments is rather stable. 30% of the manuscripts were rejected **before any external review** in 2014 vs 29% during 2013. Direct rejection decided by the editor in chief and the associate editors, enables us to concentrate on the really interesting and novel manuscripts. Causes for immediate rejections are: (i) MS not ready for an assessment (poorly written and presented); (ii) MS out of the scope of the journal; (iii) MS with a major flaw detected by the handling editor and (iv) MS lacking novelty. Keeping high rates of direct rejection before review is a mean to limit the burden on the shoulders of external reviewers, and to keep a positive image of the journal. Sending out poor papers for external review may discourage the reviewers and spread a poor image of the journal. More generally, we still need to struggle against the idea that AFS publishes quality but “déjà vu” papers.

AFS associate editors.



Laurent Berges

Joined 2013. Expertise: Forest dynamics (ecology and genetics)

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1. Some indicators for AFS during 2014: IF and manuscript submission

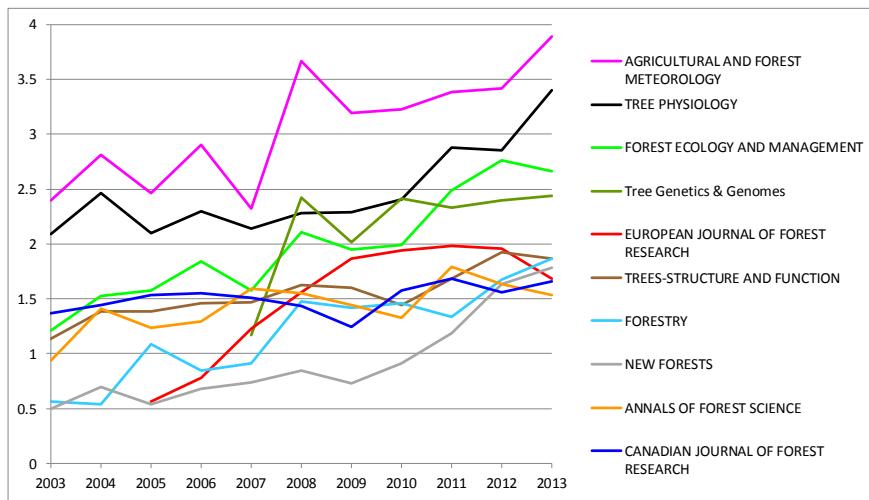


Figure 5. Time course of the ISI two years impact factor of a selection of journals in the subject category “Forestry”.



Figure 6: Journal metrics as displayed in the most recent flyer of AFS: the Google Scholar H5 (basically, the number H of papers that were cited more than H times during the last 5 years); the Scimago H index (similar definition but over the life time of the journal) and the ISI 5-year impact factor.

AFS associate editors.



Andreas Bolte

Joined 2013. Expertise:
Forestry wood chain
(management, products,
services)

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Unfortunately, the ISI impact factor for AFS vs. other journals in the subject category “Forestry” declined significantly. Our impact factor is not increasing fast enough, and this has a negative impact on the quality of the manuscripts that are submitted to AFS. AFS is often seen as a “second choice” journal targeted by authors for publishing manuscripts rejected by higher ranked journals. Figure 5 confirms that our journal is loosing ground with respect to more recent and possibly more focused journals like Forestry or New Forest. IF has been severely criticized when used as the sole index for the impact of a given journal. We therefore decided, in agreement with the statements of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment “DORA” (www.ascb.org/dora-old/files/SFDeclarationFINAL.pdf), to advertise AFS using multiple metrics with different emphasis, as displayed in Figure 6. Such metrics provide a more detailed and complete picture of the actual impact of the journal, even if they do not fundamentally change the ranking of AFS. During the recent IUFRO world congress (October 2014), we put an emphasis on this aspect to share it with other journal editors. We need to struggle against the IF-mania that still prevails among authors, and convince the authors that the quality of AFS is not only reflected in its IF. But anyway, we are convinced that AFS needs to increase its visibility and general impact. Several of the initiatives developed during 2014 should contribute to such an enhancement.

2. Manuscript processing and production.

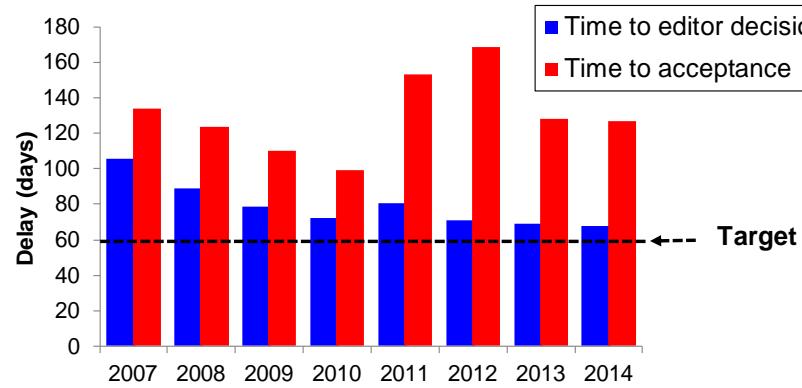


Figure 7: Delay in days between the submission of a manuscript and the first decision letter by the editor (the delays for manuscripts that are "rejected without review" are excluded), and between submission and final acceptance.

The most important criterion for the choice of a journal by authors (excluding the IF-mania) is the **delay between submission and the first decision communicated to the authors**. The mean value of this delay was almost stable in 2014 with respect to earlier years (figure 7): 68 days vs. 69 during 2013. This figure does not take into account the papers rejected without review, for which the decision may be very quick. We are getting closer to the 60 days target, but still need to fasten our reviewing process. We insist that **handling editors need follow closely the fate of the manuscripts on their screen**. Causes for the delay in handling manuscripts are (i) the late answers from overloaded referees (sometimes several reminders are needed to obtain a review), and to some extent (ii) slow handling by the associate editors. While we can only humbly solicit referees (and possibly put them under a kind pressure to produce their assessment), we may convincingly **reduce the delays in the processing by the editorial board!** We are indeed improving, but still did not reach the 60 days target.

When we changed publisher, there was a large number of manuscripts still under processing that were taken over by Springer, which induced a temporary peak in the delay. This is now fully settled. The mean time to final acceptance remains similar in 2014 compared to 2013 (127 vs. 128 days). Acceptance time remains rather high due to the fact that we sometimes have to request 2 or even 3 revisions before the manuscripts reach fully follow the instructions to authors and the manuscript meet the quality requirements for publication.

AFS associate editors.



Andrew Merchant

Joined 2013. Expertise:
Biology of trees and
associated organisms

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3. Editorial innovations during 2014: Open data and data papers.

Open data are considered by AFS to be a central issue, to which AFS intends to contribute through: (i) the launching of a new section with data-papers, i.e., short papers describing a data-set made available to other researchers; (ii) a trend towards mandatory data deposits to have a manuscript accepted. The second step will be gradually implemented during 2015, and we will have to convince all authors to provide their data as a proof for the ideas developed in their manuscript. This is currently implemented in a number of journals devoted to ecology, and no doubt many others will follow. The first step is now fully operational. The importance of this issue was underlined by Bruno Fady, who has a strong background as a forest ecologist producing large data sets. The idea was further developed by AFS with the help of Alain Benard, specialist of data management at Inra-Nancy. The issue was addressed in the editorial: [*The open data debate: a need for accessible and shared data in forest science. AFS 71, 523-525*](#)

What is a data-paper? It is a short paper describing the general content of the data set, linked to (i) a meta-data file describing the structure of the data set and the accessibility of the data that may be fully open, or under controlled access (template provided by the journal), and (ii) the actual data set made available by the authors in a data repository. AFS is responsible for the paper processing, will store the meta-data file on an Inra server, and will leave the responsibility to the authors with respect to the actual dataset (with a warrant that the access will be maintained over at least 5 years, ideally with no time restriction).

We now have an efficient procedure to review data papers describing simple data sets. Marianne Peiffer acts as handling editor for all data papers, and the quality of the text, of the meta-data and of

the data-set will be assessed by external referees specialized in data management. But recently, scientists submitted data papers describing rather complex data bases containing very large amounts of data. Moreover, in many cases the data set still may evolve through addition of novel data during the coming years. In many cases, a drawing describing the conceptual scheme of the data base might be very important and useful. We therefore are currently working at improving our internal guidelines as well as the instructions to authors.

Anyway, we are currently providing the author submitting a data paper with an *ad hoc* help to guide him/her though the submission procedure. A paper is currently under review and three more should be submitted in the near future. One of the challenges we are currently facing is to find reviewers able to check the quality of a data paper and of the attached data set. We favour mobilising specialist of data management who are able to assess data sets and with standard quality criteria, and a set of specialist will be identified with the help of the associate editors.

AFS associate editors.



Aaron Weiskittel

Joined 2014. Expertise:
Forestry wood chain
(management, products,
services)

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3. Editorial innovations during 2014: Open data and data papers: who does what?

Who ?				AFS associate editors  Thomas Wohlgemuth Joined 2013. Expertise: Forest dynamics (ecology and genetics) Access to the Personnal home page
Inputs?	Provide access to data sets	Provide peer review for data sets, process the manuscript and publish the paper	Provide the template for the Metadata describing the data set.	
Why?	Need of recognition for the production of data sets; Wish to have his data reused and valued	Knowledge dissemination	Metadata dissemination via Geonetwork (Geographic Metadata Catalogue)	
Where?	Data stored in public repositories (like Dryad, figshare, over 1,000 research data repositories indexed in http://www.re3data.org/) or in an own data repository	Guidelines available: http://ist.blogs.inra.fr/afs/2014/08/06/guidelines-for-preparing-and-reviewing-data-papers/ See also the Instructions for Authors	Template available for the meta data: https://metadata-afs.nancy.inra.fr/ressources/data-set_paper.xlsx	
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access conditions described in the data paper; • Data sets have a DOI or equivalent identifier • Data providers may require co authorship for data reuse if justified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data open access provided immediately upon publication • Free access to data unless otherwise explicated by the authors. 	The template is the right format for a direct input into Geonetwork	

Table 2: Role and functions of the different actors behind the construction, submission and management of data-papers in Annals of Forest Science.

3. Editorial innovations during 2014: Open data and data papers.

	Research paper	Data paper
Data policy	AFS recommends that authors deposit every data in support of the research and conclusions	AFS publishes this new category of papers devoted to datasets
Data archiving	The most appropriate would be to archive the data before the manuscript is submitted to AFS for peer-review. In any case the data must be archived before the accepted manuscript is sent to the publisher for typesetting. The location of archived data together with the DOIs (or other persistent identifiers) needs be included in the manuscript.	
Features related to data archiving and citations	The basic format for citing electronic sources is: author's last name, first initial, title of the data package (e.g. Data from "Article name"), data repository name, data identifier (DOI), address/URL. Publisher's metadata indexation and dissemination on the web site is performed.	
Specific companion file attached to the manuscript?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No companion file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors must complete a Template for Metadata (mandatory); • Authors are encouraged to submit a Data Dictionary as a single document for supplementary material. The Dictionary describes the variables and the tables in the database, and clarifies all links between variables and components of the data base. Addition of a data model description may be relevant.
Dissemination of the specific files		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Data Dictionary is published as e-only material. • The metadata aims to promote internet access to spatial datasets via Geonetwork
Other mandatory files	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover letter • Title page • Body of the manuscript 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover letter • Title page • Body of the manuscript with dedicated sections

Table 3: Data policy, submission process and specific features for research or data papers

AFS associate editors.



Eric Rigolot

Joined 2012. Expertise:
Risks and disturbances
(ecology and economics)

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4 . Websites and communication tools.

During 2014, AFS launched several new communication tools.

1. A blog launched July 2014 presents new information and highlights papers published in AFS issues. The blog is available at: <http://ist.blogs.inra.fr/afs/>. It already contains 67 posts, which is quite a lot. The posts were prepared by the editorial board. We will advertise the blog and ask authors to provide pictures for illustration of different posts. There is an optional possibility of leaving comments on the posts, the comments referring to published articles. Unfortunately, most if not all the posted comments up to now are spam, mostly produced by robots screening websites. To our knowledge, this is unfortunately quite a common feature in other journal's blogs.

Potential improvements: (i) have more associate editors provide material for the blog; (ii) addressing some timely issues related to the scope of the journal; (iii) provide more information about the journal's life; (iv) communicate more about the blog.

2. Annals of Forest Science is twitting under @AnnForSci (this creates links among messages from a given tweeter), with the hashtag #AnnForSci in the text (this creates links among topics). 119 tweets were issued during the 6 last months, while there are 52 followers of the journal on Twitter.

We will after 2015 try to assess the effectiveness of these communication tools, to optimize their use. They are not very time consuming and very cheap, but their impact remains rather small (difficult to quantify anyway).

AFS associate editors.



Cécile Robin,

Joined 2012. Expertise:
Risks and disturbances
(ecology and economics)

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4. Websites and communication tools : Screenshots

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Annals of Forest Science blog. At the top, it says "Annals of Forest Science BLOG". Below that is a navigation bar with links: News and comments, About Annals of Forest Science, Archives, For authors, For Referees, and Editorial news. A large green button on the left says "17 Jan 2015". The main article title is "CONSUMERS' PERCEPTIONS AND PREFERENCE PROFILES FOR WOOD SURFACES TESTED WITH PAIRWISE COMPARISON IN GERMANY". It was written by Erwin Dreyer on January 17, 2015, and is categorized as a Research Paper. The author's bio mentions he is from the Chair of Forest Utilization at the University of Freiburg. There are "0 Comments" and "Read More" buttons at the bottom.



AnnalsForestScience

@AnnForSci

Annals of Forest Science is a peer-reviewed journal of the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), published by Springer
springer.com/13595

AFS associate editors.



Bruno Fady

Joined 2011. Expertise:
Forest dynamics (ecology
and genetics)

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5. Archiving published papers and evolution towards full green open access

After 1 year embargo, all papers published by AFS will be deposited in a digital repository, which makes AFS compliant with the green open access policy as claimed in the editorial available at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13595-014-0370-8>. The selected repository is *Hal* with a special portal leading to all AFS's papers.

For the papers published in the 2013 volume, we have tried to find a less time consuming solution for the managing editor. Otherwise we had positive experience to subcontract the automatic deposit of papers in the digital repository (the complete collection of AFS's papers was automatically deposited for a digital perennial archiving). So, we decided to subcontract for an automatical deposit for the papers published in 2013. However, the digital repository staff had a lot of work with the development of the hal v3.0 version. The staff is now overloaded (victim of its own success). The staff accepted the order placed with the Inra journals for the papers published in 2013 but is unable to do the job so far. We send regularly reminders.

For the papers published in the 2014 volume, the managing editor has just finished to deposit manually the papers in the digital repository <http://bit.ly/1C6n9lr>, under the condition of respecting the 12 months embargo required in our contract with the publisher:

Inra's journals and many other institutions deposited now on the digital repository *Hal*. *Hal* placed itself on the fifth position on the world ranking of portals <http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/world>.

AFS associate editors.



Shuqing Zhao

Joined AFS in 2011.

Expertise: Forestry
wood chain
(management, products,
services)

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6. Thematic issues

Thematic issues are in reality not real “issues” in the sense of a specific issue, but a series of papers devoted to a specific topic suggested as a result of a conference, a working group or a voluntary editor (associate editor or even a guest editor on a specific issue/topic). After the peer-review process (which is exactly the same than for regular issues, with the same quality criteria), the number of papers published in a given thematic issue may largely vary depending on the number and quality of submitted manuscripts. Usually, a thematic issue is opened by a letter to the editor or a preface to introduce the topic (and to cite all the papers in the issue).

During 2014, we have been working on a number of thematic issues with a very diverse number of papers finally produced. As examples of finished issues, we may cite **ClimTree** (following the conference organized September 2013 at Zürich), **WoodChem** (from the conference on Wood Chemistry at Nancy, September 2013), **MemoWood** (from the conference Measurement methods and Modelling approaches for predicting desirable future Wood properties, Nancy, September 2013), **FlexWood** (Flexible Wood Supply Chain, COST action ended 2012), and **ICP-Forest** (International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests). A few projects are still under processing, like **GlobAllomeTree** (based on the FAO-CIRAD cooperation on allometrics of trees, with quite a number of manuscript under processing), **EMERGE** (a French project about the estimation of biomass available for energy in forests), **MedPine5** (as a follow-up tp the fifth international conference on Mediterranean pines held at Barcelona during September 2014) and **Usewood** (resulting from a COST action about the National Forest Inventories accross Europe). A project will also base on a conference to be held at Orléans about forest pests.

A very specific project of thematic issues is the one devoted to the **50th anniversary of Annals of Forest Science** (founded under the title Annales des Sciences Forestières during 1964). This issue will gather review papers dealing with a range of topics for forest science, and we already about 10 manuscripts under processing. The review papers may be submitted during 2015 with a rather loose deadline, and the accepted papers will be published over several regular issues during 2015 and possible 2016. We will produce a virtual issue once all papers have been published. This is a very important project for AFS, which should contribute to enhance our impact factor and our visibility. We have solicited a number of scientists for contributions, and we would be very honoured if associate editors of the journal would like to contribute. For details, please contact Jean Michel Leban (leban@nancy.inra.fr).

Thematic issues are for AFS a means to solicit actively contributions from scientists on topics that are important and relevant for the journal. We need to continue soliciting scientists for potential contributions; all suggestions for new thematic issues are welcome.

AFS associate editors



Marc Hanewinkel

Joined AFS in 2010.

Expertise: Risks and disturbances (ecology and economics)

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7. Interactions with fellow journal editors and IUFRO working party

Following the meeting of editors of Forest and Wood Science journals that was held at Nancy, September 2013, AFS prepared a presentation for the World Congress of IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations) at Salt Lake City, October 2014. The session “How to make forest science available for all? Publishers’, editors’, and authors’ challenges” was organised by Pekka Nygren from the Finnish Society of Forest Science. The presentation is available on the AFS blog. The discussions were about how to reach an optimal dissemination of research results in the fields of forest and wood sciences, and about journals devoted to this field.

As a direct output of this sessions, we (Pekka Nygren, *Silva Fennica*, Keith Moser, *Forest Science*, Douglass Jacobs, *New Forests* and Erwin Dreyer, *Annals of Forest Science*) decided to propose a new working party within IUFRO (WP 9.01.06). The proposal was filed to IUFRO by January 13, 2015. The main target group of the proposed working party are the editors and editorial board members of peer-reviewed forest science journals. The editors-in-chief and associate editors of the forest and wood science journals listed by the Web of Science have been contacted personally to inquire about their interest in joining the working party. As of 8 January 2015, 21 editors of forest and wood science journals had expressed their interest to join to the working party, and an additional five had given their contact details for receiving more information on the activities of the working party.

This WP should contribute to improve information exchanges among our journals, and enhance our visibility in a quickly evolving editorial world. A first meeting of the working party will be held at Helsinki next Fall (October or November). The precise schedule will be provided soon.

AFS associate editors



Ana Rincon

Joined AFS in 2009.

Expertise: Biology of trees
and associated organisms

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8. Other editorial initiatives under construction.

Two further initiatives are under construction and discussion:

1. We plan to develop **Commentaries** that present comments about a few remarkable research results published in a given issue. For this, we need to select remarkable papers (at the stage of acceptance) and invite a fellow scientist to prepare a comment that should be published together with the primary paper. The comment should develop the background of the published paper, describe the research issues in the field and raise further questions to be addressed during forthcoming research. The objective is to increase the visibility of interesting and innovative papers published in the journal. An excellent model for such Commentaries can be found in every issue of New Phytologist, and Tree Physiology now employs a part-time editor to prepare such commentaries.

To start, we would need the associate editors to suggest relevant papers (while they prepare the final assessment of a manuscript) and provide the Managing editor with a list of potential contributors who may be able and/or willing to prepare a commentary. We would then contact these authors and ask them to write a short (2-3 pages) commentary. A few such invitations were mailed before Christmas and we might soon obtain such a commentary for publication.

2. This is still under discussion by the editorial board. We are thinking to offer to make the reviews of the published papers available if the authors of the reviews agree. This would have a double effect: value the reviewing work (which is usually a shadow work), and improve the quality of the reviews. This is still a very preliminary project, but we plan to work it out for 2016.

We are currently working on several other ideas that remain too preliminary to be cited in this report. We are open to all suggestions and ideas to improve the services brought to authors and readers by our journal and by the publisher on his website.

AFS associate editors



Michael Tausz

Joined AFS in 2009.

Expertise: Biology of trees
and associated organisms

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9. Recent changes in the editorial board.

Douglass F Jacobs (Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA) left the editorial board of Annals of Forest Science because of heavy duties and his involvement as Chied Editor of New Forests. We still cooperate particularly in the project of IUFRO Working Party of the forest and wood science journal editors. Douglass was very active and contributed with novel ideas and much energy to the journal and we are grateful to Douglass for this input.

François Lieutier (Université d'Orléans, France) retired from his job as professor in forest entomology. François served as associate editor to the journal for many years, and was very active in bringing in new topics about pest management in forests. We thank François for his contribution during all those years.

Aurélien Sallé (Université d'Orléans) joined Annals of Forest Science as a specialist in forest entomology and pest management in forests. He will cover the field of expertise that was formerly covered by François.

Ricardo Alia (INIA, Madrid) joined Annals of Forest Science as a specialist of population genetics and evolution in forest ecosystems. He will complete the skills we already mobilized in our editorial team around this important topic related to long term forest dynamics and adaptation to climate shifts.

The pictures of all associate editors are displayed in this report. We are proud to gather such an active team of excellent scientists in support of our publishing activity.

AFS associate editors



Barry Gardiner

Joined AFS

Expertise: Forestry wood chain (management, products, services)

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10. Miscellaneous.

Inra will renew the 5 years contract with the publisher. An open call to publishers will be produced by Inra for all interested publishers to apply. The selection of the publisher should be public latest during September and the new contract will start January 1, 2016. We will keep you informed of the different steps of the call and selection process.

We plan to hold an editorial meeting sometime during September 2015 presumably at Nancy (another, more convenient location could also be favoured). The meeting would be kept short (two days, with a possibility to travel the first morning and the second evening). There are many issues to be discussed, including the interactions with the publisher, the evolution of our editorial processes, the development of open data and open access to research results, new thematic issues and every possible initiative to increase the impact of the journal.

A particular emphasis will be put on ethical issues related to scientific publishing. We would invite some specialists of the domain to help us keep online with the ongoing worldwide debates about this issue.

AFS associate editors



Christophe Plomion

Joined AFS

Expertise: Genomics and genetics

Access to the [Personnal home page](#)

11. Conclusion.

We believe 2014 was a very active and fruitful year for AFS. We launched a number of new initiatives and changes, we communicated better around the journal; we now have an active editorial board at Nancy sharing activities, ideas and work load; the journal's network around the world developed; the number of submissions is not declining despite the severe competition among journals (with the emergence of novel journals with sometimes very aggressive practices); and with a clear position in a green open access perspective in agreement with our publisher Springer. There were also many novelties on the Springer website.

Annals of Forest Science has the potential to develop into a major player in the field of editing forest and wood science results, debates, commentaries and new ideas. We will do every effort to reach this goal and make the journal a recognized forum in the field.

AFS associate editors



Gilbert Aussénac

Former Chief editor of Annals of Forest Science (from 1988 to 2006)

Expertise: Ecophysiology and forest ecology.