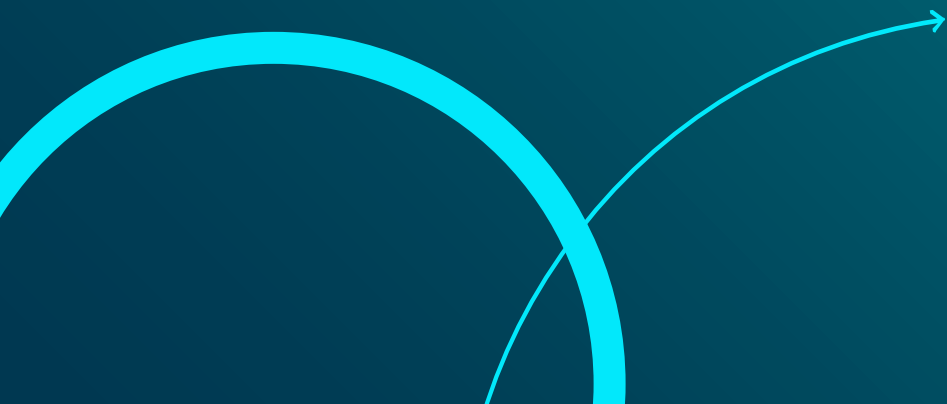


# Botanical Society of America Member Survey

2018



# Background and Objectives

## Background information

- Deployed to **5,849 members and authors**
- **764 responses** collected
- 0 responses in progress
- Survey opened November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and closes January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

## Objectives

- To gather member preferences, motivations, and satisfaction
- To learn the most important factors in an author's decision to submit to the *American Journal of Botany* and *Applications in Plant Sciences*
- To gain insights and see trends in journal content applications
- To gather information on the BSA member community
- To learn about factors that influence submission and the perceived quality of a journal

# Respondents

**55.12% were professors (Assistant, Associate, Adjunct, and Professor)**

15.12% were upper level students (PhD, Postdoctoral)

10.7% were retired

10.24% were federal/state agency scientists, administrators, or consultants

2.56% were undergraduate or masters students

0.23% were K-12 educators

55.85% Male  
40.29% Female  
0.53% Non-binary  
2.93% Prefer not to say

# Membership

**77.62% are reported members**

21.2% are nonmembers

1.18% were unsure of their membership status

**Of those reported members:**

**62.23% have been members for over 10 years**

16.19% have been members for 1-5 years

12.82% have been members for 6-10 years

4.72% have been members intermittently

4.05% have been members for less than 1 year

# *American Journal of Botany* Readership

## **94.37% report reading articles published in *AJB***

42.61% use the research to stay abreast of advances in their own field

18.88% use the research for teaching or for facilitating discussions with students

13.17% use the research for organized group discussions (e.g. journal club, seminars, brown-bag lunches)

# Applications in Plant Sciences Readership

## 54.65% report reading articles published in *APPS*

39.17% use the research to learn specific techniques or protocols

33.81% use the research to stay abreast of advances in their own field

12.5% use the research for teaching or for facilitating discussions with students

## 45.35% report not reading articles published in *APPS*

**When asked why they don't read research in *APPS*, their reasons were:**

37.5% other (predominantly people who weren't aware of the journal or reported that the content wasn't relevant to their research)

33.33% reported no interest

26.3% reported no time

2.86% reported getting similar content in other publications

# What interests you most about writing review papers?

**55.96% have written review papers**

**When asked why, these respondents said:**

57.73% the opportunity to explore and synthesize work in an area or interest

22.3% giving back to the community

17.2% advancing my career

# What type of reviews do you find most useful to your own research?

**52.91%** Short focused reviews

**43.44%** Long comprehensive reviews



# Which, if any, of the following is used to evaluate the quality of a journal?

**18.87% Reputation of the journal, society, or publisher**

**18.02% Previous experience with the journal**

**11.82% Other authors who have published with the journal**

10.80% The stated aims and scopes

9.95% Impact Factor

9.83% Peer review/acceptance criteria

9.36% The apparent attention to production and editorial detail

6.35% The editorial board

48.71% has to do with how a journal is perceived, personal experience, or experience of others with the journal

# Which, if any, of the following influence a decision on where to submit?

## High Degree of Influence

The likely audience

Reputation of the journal, society, or publisher

Previous experience with the journal

The range of areas encompassed by the journal

Others in the field who are publishing in the journal

## Medium Degree of influence

Impact Factor

Expected speed to publication

Perceived ease of publishing process

The editorial board

Others in the field who are publishing in the journal

## Low Degree of Influence

Journal's social media presence

Type of copyright license offered

Invitation to submit through an email or call for papers

Article usage metrics

Journal offers professional copyediting