

REVISTA MEXICANA DE ASTRONOMÍA Y ASTROFÍSICA: 42 YEARS OF HISTORY AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

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RESUMEN

Presentamos una retrospectiva de los 42 años de historia de la Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica.

ABSTRACT

We cast a retrospective view on 42 years of publishing the Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica.

Key Words: publications, bibliography

1. INTRODUCTION: SOME HISTORY

When the Boletín de los Observatorios de Tonantzintla y Tacubaya, founded back in 1952, was closed, it was deemed necessary to continue its tradition with a new journal, the Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica, which published its first issue in 1974. Founding editors were P. Pishmish, E. Mendoza and S. Torres-Peimbert. Since then, RMxAA has published original research papers in all branches of astronomy, astrophysics and related subjects. Until 1994 RMxAA also published the proceedings of astronomical conferences held in Mexico and Latin America. Since 1995 a Series devoted exclusively to such proceedings was founded, RMxAC.

2. THE JOURNAL

All papers sent to RMxAA are strictly refereed. Papers are published in English, with a Spanish abstract. Two issues of RMxAA are published per year, in April and October. Over the years, about 800 copies of each printed issue have been distributed free of charge to more than 500 astronomical libraries and institutions in 70 countries. With the widespread and free availability of the on-line versions fewer printed issues are now distributed. Both publications, RMxAA and RMxAC, are fully integrated into the ADS and appear simultaneously in the journal web page and in the ADS. Their contents have always been freely available to the general public. RMxAA is included in the main international and national indexes, such as Science Citation Index, ADS, Scopus, Scimago, Latindex, Scielo, etc. All this ensures a wide international visibility, comparable to that of the best astronomical journals. Publication in RMxAA is free of charge for authors, an important consideration especially in times of economic

Factor de impacto
1985 - 2015

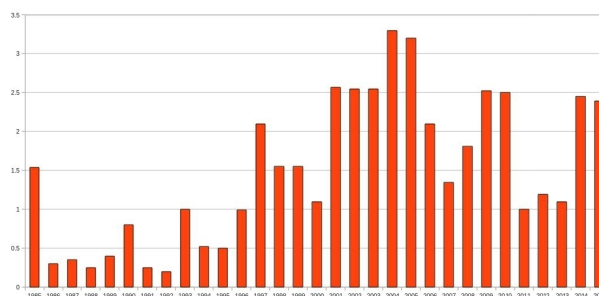


Fig. 1. Impact factor RMxAA from 1985 to 2015.

hardship. At present, Christine Allen serves as Editor for RMxAA, and William Henney is Associate Editor. Silvia Torres-Peimbert is Editor of the Conference Series, RMxAC. The Editorial Committee, which mainly assists in selecting suitable reviewers for the papers submitted to RMxAA, includes Jorge Cantó (Mexico), Horacio Dottori (Brazil), Guido Garay (Chile), Gloria Koenigsberger (Mexico), Hugo Levato (Argentina), Luis F. Rodríguez (Mexico) and José-María Torrelles (Spain). Editorial Assistants are Héctor M. Cejudo and Tulio Lugo.

3. PUBLISHED PAPERS AND IMPACT FACTOR

Up to the present time (2016) a total of 894 papers have been published. In recent times, an average of about 25 papers per year have been published. The impact factor of RMxAA has varied over the years, largely as a consequence of small number statistics. Figure 1 shows the impact factor of the journal from 1985 to 2015. The average impact factor (2001-2015) is about 2.2. Figure 2 shows a comparison of the impact factor of Latin American scientific journals. Data were taken mainly from the

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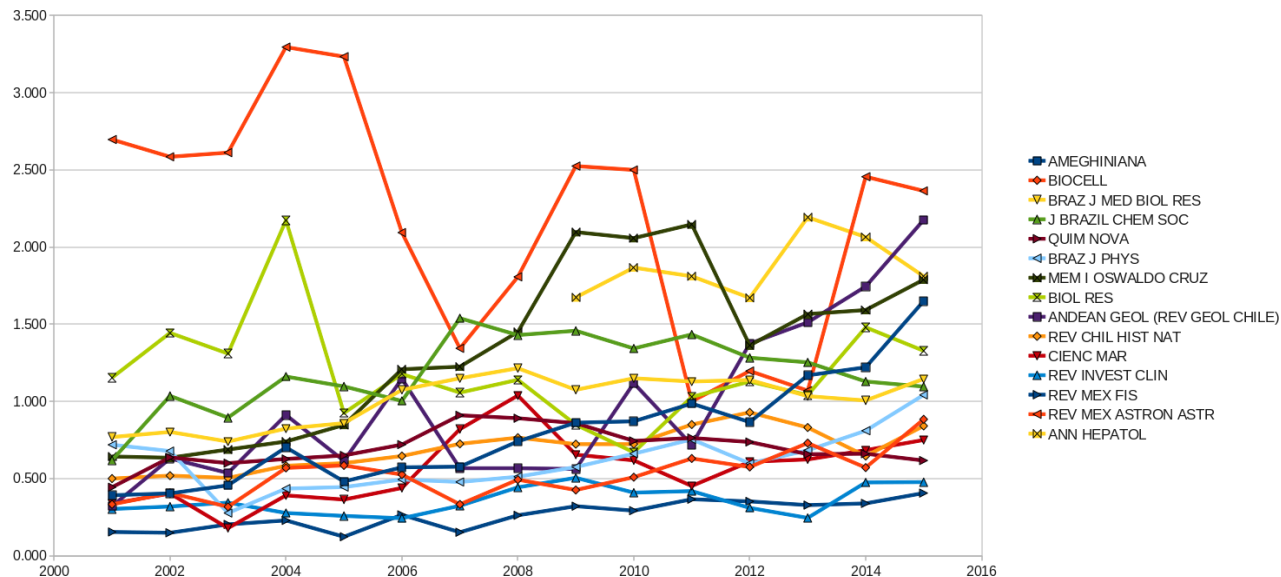


Fig. 2. Comparison of the impact factor of Latin American scientific journals. The color figure can be viewed online.

Journal Citation Report (2016). The figure clearly shows that the impact factor of RMxAA, in spite of its fluctuations, has been larger than that of all but a few Latin American science journals. A comparison of the impact factor of RMxAA and other Mexican science journals shows that *Annals Hepatology*, a fairly new and very successful publication, is the only journal with a comparable impact factor.

4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Astronomy Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico is the main contributor to RMxAA. It provides salaries for two editorial assistants, an office and infrastructure (mainly computational), as well as printing and mailing costs for the journal. Financial support for the Conference Series is provided mainly by the organizers or sponsoring institutions of the meeting.

5. SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

RMxAA has been published continuously for 42 years. Its visibility and impact factor place it among the good international astronomy journals. Printed issues have been distributed free of charge to more than 500 astronomical libraries and institutions all over the world. The on-line version is freely available,

authors pay no page charges. All this makes our journal particularly attractive in times of economic difficulties. Spanish abstracts are provided for all papers. They are intended to preserve our language as a valid alternative for communication among Spanish-speaking astronomers, as well as to provide acceptable Spanish translations of widely used scientific terms and expressions. The editorial independence of the journal is valuable for scientifically sound contributions outside the main prevailing trends. Paradoxically, its acceptance among our national evaluation agencies is not on par with its international reputation. As a consequence, some authors still prefer to publish in other journals, sometimes with worse visibility and impact factors. We are working towards improving this situation.

It is clear that RMxAA and RMxAC cannot remain outside the current trend of astronomy journals to go to an all-electronic publication. At present, we are in the process of obtaining the necessary legal accreditations (ISSN, DOI, etc.) for both journals.

REFERENCES

Journal Citation Report, 2016, available at <http://clarivate.com/scientific-and-academic-research/research-evaluation/journal-citation-reports/>