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REVISTA MEXICANA DE ASTRONOMÍA Y ASTROFÍSICA, A REAL OPTION FOR ASTRONOMICAL PUBLICATION

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RESUMEN

Presentamos datos estadísticos sobre la Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica. Consideramos que esta publicación está bien posicionada en la literatura astronómica internacional. Igualmente, presentamos información sobre la Serie de Conferencias, que ha tenido muy amplia aceptación en la comunidad astronómica.

ABSTRACT

We present statistical data about the Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica. We consider that this journal is well positioned in the international astronomical literature. Similarly we present information about the Serie de Conferencias, which also has a wide level of acceptance by the astronomical community.

Key Words: miscellaneous

1. DESCRIPTION

Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica (RevMexAA) was founded in 1974, and it publishes original research articles in all fields of astronomy, astrophysics and related topics. This journal was started after its predecessor, the Boletín de los Observatorios de Tonantzintla y Tacubaya, which started in 1952, was closed in 1972.

The paperd are published in English and include an abstract in Spanish. Two numbers are issued per year and they are distributed free of charge to all institutions engaged in the fields covered by the RevMexAA that request them.

During its 36 years of existence RevMexAA has published 742 refereed papers in its regular issues. The number of original investigations published corresponds to an average of 20 papers per year. The referees are selected among international experts in the corresponding fields.

From its foundation up until 1994 RevMexAA also published as special volumes the proceedings of astronomical meetings that were held in Mexico and Latin America. In 1995 "Serie de Conferencias" was established specifically to cover the transactions of conferences, and to differentiate them from the regular refereed volumes.

2. IMPACT FACTOR

The impact factor[2] is a measurement of the readership of a scientific journal. This quantity has been defined in the ISI Thompson. It is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to articles published in science and social science journals. It is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field, with journals with higher impact factors deemed to be more important than those with lower ones. The impact factor was devised by Garfield (1972) the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). This organization is now part of Thomson Reuters. Impact factors are calculated yearly for those journals that are indexed in Thomson Reuter's Journal Citation Reports.

RevMexAA has been indexed by ISI for 25 years, so it is possible to follow, through its impact fac-

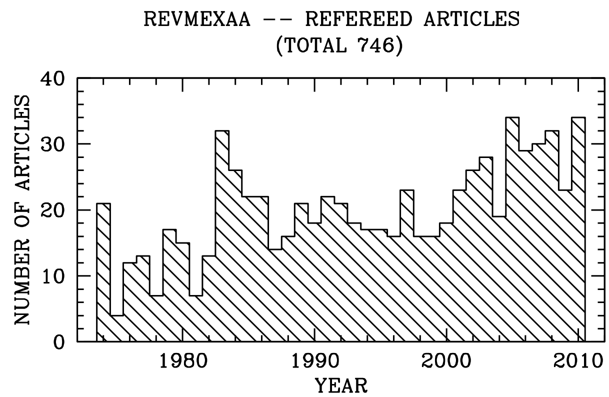

Fig. 1. Number of refereed articles published in Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica. The total number of articles is 746.

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[2] Journal impact factor for a given year, as defined by ISI, is the number of cites received by the journal in that year to items published in the preceding two years, divided by the number of items published in those two years.

tor, its acceptance by the astronomical community. There is information about the journal impact factor since 1985. From 1985–1994 the mean impact factor of RevMexAA was of 0.577, which is relatively low. We interpret this value, not only as a measure of moderate interest by the readers on the contents of the journal, but also, to the fact that the impact factor is a fraction where the denominator is the number of titles published, and during that period the articles that were taken into account included the contributions to conference proceeding volumes, that frequently do not obtain high citation rates. However, to make more explicit the contents in the journal, as mentioned above, in 1995 it was decided to separate the publications into two collections: the main volumes, RevMexAA, to encompass all the original research that undergoes refereeing, and a new publication, Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica (Serie de Conferencias) to house the memoirs of meetings. After this new arrangement of separate publications, the impact factor of RevMexAA increased significantly, and reached a mean value of 2.015 from 1995 to 2009. In 2009 the impact factor was of 2.525, the 5-year journal impact factor was of 2.284; altogether the mean impact factor in the last 9 years has been of 2.466. These data have been taken from the Science Citation Index in the past and from the ISI Web of Knowledge Journal Citation Reports (e. g. JCR Science Edition 2009).

From these figures, we recognize that although the impact factor of RevMexAA is not the highest among the astronomy and astrophysics journals, it is comparable with those of astronomical journals respected by the community.

It is important to note that this journal has been the publication of highest impact factor in Ibero-America, at least from 1985 thru 2004 (Luna-Morales & Collazo-Reyes 2007). In 2009 it was only surpassed by one journal in Brasil and two in Spain, both in biological sciences (JCR Science Edition 2009).

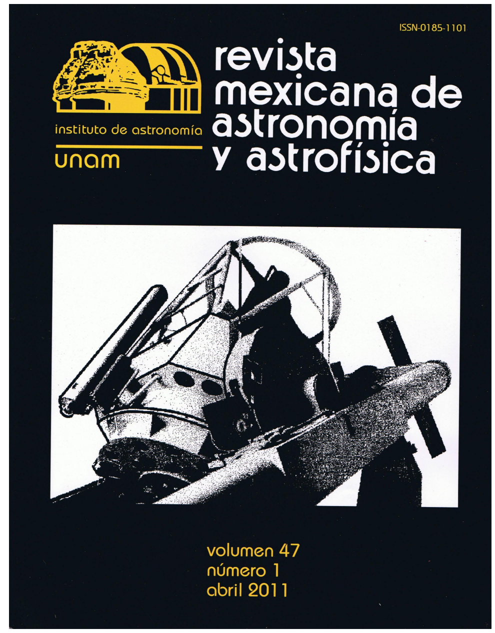

Fig. 2. Cover page of the most recent issue of RevMexAA.

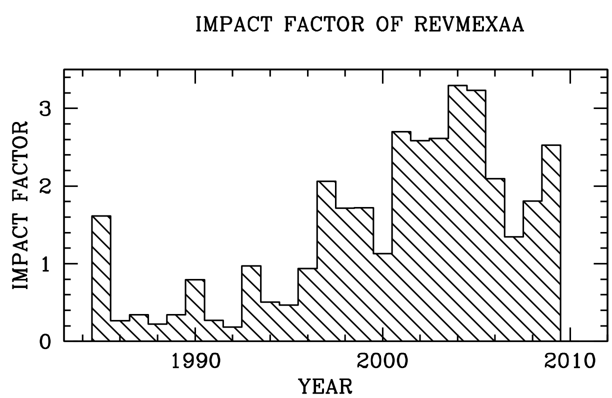

Fig. 3. Impact factor of Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica from 1985 to 2009. The mean value for the 2001–2009 period is 2.466.

3. VISIBILITY

RevMexAA is included in Current Contents, Science Citation Index, Scopus, Scielo, Redalyc, Latindex and other international indexes.

Most importantly for our discipline, both RevMexAA and Serie de Conferencias are included in the SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System, the digital library for physics and astronomy, ADS. This has allowed the visibility of RevMexAA to be comparable to that of the best international astronomical journals. Furthermore its contents are available in electronic form free of charge in `http://www.astroscu.unam.mx/~rmaa`.

From a search carried out in ADS data base, it was found that (up to October 2010) 29 individual authors had gathered more than 100 citations in RevMexAA publications, and more than 10 authors had received over 300 citations, while more than 2 had obtained over 1000 citations. This results depend on the number of papers published in RevMexAA and on their quality.

Fig. 4. Thomson Reuters, proprietary of Science Citation Index, recognition of its excellence in the area.

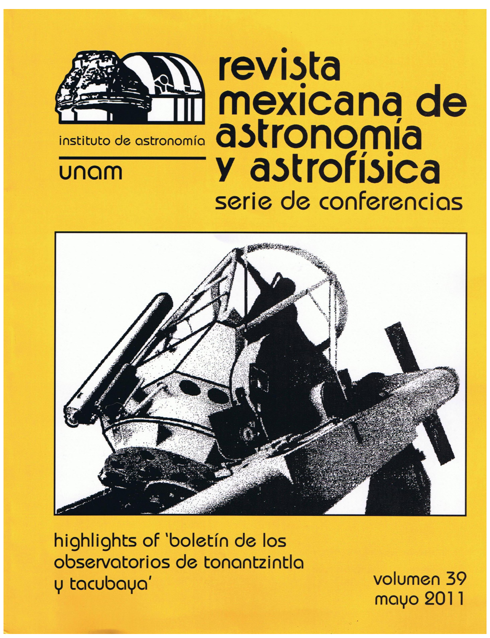

Fig. 5. Cover page of the most recent RevMexAA Serie de Conferencias.

4. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

RevMexAA has received the participation of the Latin-American astronomical community and some from other parts of the world. Upon examination of the place of work of the first authors that have published in RevMexAA from 2006 to 2010 we find: that most of them are located in Mexico, with participation of authors from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Spain, USA, Italy, Serbia, Turkey, Russia, Greece, China, and Belgium.

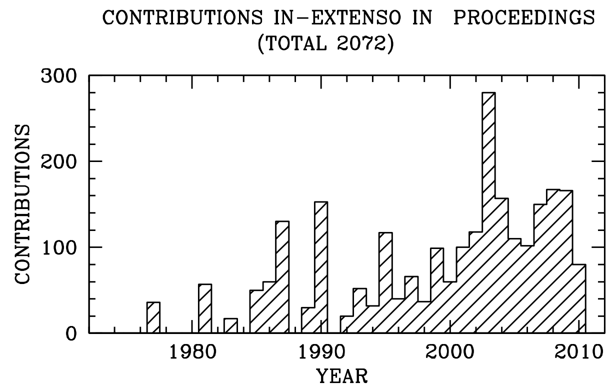

Fig. 6. Number of in extenso articles published from 1974 to 2010 in Serie de Conferencias. The total amounts to 2072 articles.

The editorial board was established in 1988 and since then, we have had among its members very distinguished astronomers from Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela and Spain.

5. SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

All papers received by the RevMexAA are sent to a specialist in the field for refereeing. For more information about the style norms of RevMexAA please consult the example included in the LaTeX package. Publication in RevMexAA is free of charge to authors.

6. SERIE DE CONFERENCIAS

The Conference Series of Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica was founded in 1995 to publish the proceedings of astronomical meetings held in Mexico and other countries throughout the continent. Until 1994 such proceedings had been published as special issues of Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica.

Since its creation it has published proceedings of 38 conferences. At present, proceedings of three more meetings that have already taken place are being prepared, and we will publish three additional ones that are currently being organized.

The proceedings published correspond to meetings held in Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, Argentina, Spain and the United States. Altogether the Conference Series (and previously under the RevMexAA) has published proceedings of 11, out of a total of 12, of the Latin-American Regional International Astronomical Union Meetings, LARIM. The present volume contains the proceedings of LARIM XIII.

As is to be expected, conditions of publication of proceedings of each conference are the result of a mutual agreement between the RevMexAA (SC) and the scientific organizing committee.

7. CONCLUSIONS

We invite you to send your best material for publication to the RevMexAA. We also invite you to publish the proceedings of the best astronomical meetings in the RevMexAA (Serie de Conferencias).

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