

Extending our reach

Improving accessibility and visibility of the Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy

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A passionate research community is a strong one, but as we all know, research needs to be effectively communicated and easily accessible to have any impact. While I have worked as a researcher in the past, more recently, my professional focus has been more on research communication as an editor and publisher.

For several years I have been involved with the Bangladesh Association of Plant Taxonomists' journal the Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy (BJPT). The BJPT was first published in 1994 and has always been a well-regarded publication in Bangladesh, attracting some of the most senior, eminent botanists in Bangladesh as Chief Editors. My former supervisor at Masters level, Professor A.K.M. Nurul Islam was counted among them.

When Prof. Nurul Islam passed away in 2006, the Bangladesh Association of Plant Taxonomists looked for a new Chief Editor and nominated me as the first Executive Editor to assist them. By this time, I had published a number of papers (the majority of which were in Bangladeshi journals) and had some experience in editing and publishing through a job with the IUCN in Bangladesh. Despite my experience, I was still very surprised by the nomination, but not so humble as to decline it!

In 2008, we chose to include the BJPT as part of the Bangladesh Journals Online (BanglaJOL). This being one of INASP's Journals Online projects which provide an online publishing platform that among other things, aims to significantly improve the accessibility and visibility of developing country research. At the time, BanglaJOL had only been running for about a year, but offered a major opportunity for research communication.

This decision massively extended the journal's reach in a way that was unimaginable before. My role as editor also gave me the opportunity to work closely with INASP. Most of this contact was through e-mail, but I was also able to attend a few of the workshops they held in Bangladesh. In May 2009, I was invited to an INASP workshop in Dhaka, not as a participant but as an editor, to share my experiences with the young scientists.

By the end of 2009, I had been involved in publishing seven issues of BJPT and the journal has been abstracted or indexed by 16 agencies. One of the most notable changes after joining BanglaJOL was that the ratio of Bangladeshi to international authors had changed from 1:0 to 4:6. We had

received manuscripts from 16 countries and the average manuscript handling time was just over 2 months. All our hard work paid off when the BJPT got its first Impact Factor in June 2010.

Through hard work, dedication and a driving passion for research, we were able to significantly improve the quality and accessibility of our journal, putting it firmly on the international stage.

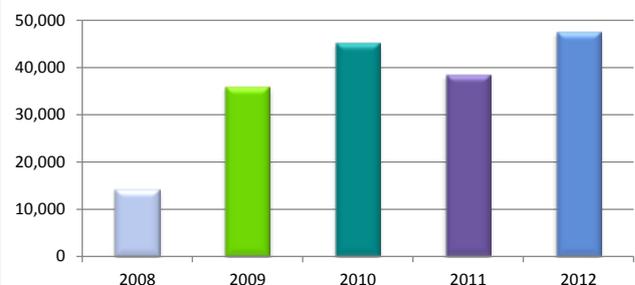
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Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy Views of Full Text articles



The total number of full text articles viewed each year in the Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy from 2008 to 2012. This shows a steady rise in access (please note: for reasons unknown, article views across the whole of BanglaJOL saw a noticeable dip in 2011).

Bangladesh Journals Online (BanglaJOL)

Established in 2007 in association with the Editing and Publication Association of Bangladesh (EPAB) and the Bangladesh Academy of Science (BAS). As of February 2013, there were 100 journals and almost 10,000 articles available.

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