2013 Advances in Publishing, Subscriptions

For ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, the commitment to publishing important research and disseminating the information to members and external audiences is paramount. Over the last year, we laid the groundwork for advances in our publishing and subscription options.

Print Subscriptions Ending

The past few years have seen extraordinary changes in publishing: Changes in technology, how content is discovered and delivered, and policies on intellectual property as well as increased competition among publishers and societies for the best papers. These have all combined to create an evolving environment in which our Societies operate.

As print subscriptions decline and the costs of printing skyrocket (both monetarily and environmentally), the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA boards of directors voted to eliminate the print versions of the flagship journals (Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, Soil Science Society of America Journal, and Journal of Environmental Quality) as of January 2013 with journal subscriptions available in electronic form.

Reduced Page Charges

The financial savings of not printing the journals has a very positive impact for authors. For many years, the Societies have had page charge policies where authors of accepted papers were required to pay a fee (on average, about $1,000 per paper). Earlier this year, the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA boards of directors voted to substantially reduce page charges, using the cost savings of stopping print subscriptions to fund this. New page charge rates for the Society flagship journals are effective with papers accepted after 1 Jan. 2013. View the new page charges via a link on each journal’s home page.

Digital Library Subscriptions

Since mid-2012, members have been able to test and use the beta version of the Digital Library, with no subscription. As of 1 January, the upgraded Digital Library is live, and all users will be required to have a subscription (membership is required for individual subscriptions).

The new Digital Library houses the full text of all journals, books, Annual Meeting presentations, magazines, and related publications and documents. This content is searchable via leading-edge software; offers journal/article/author-level metrics, links to external sources, individual profile pages, and virtual binders; and third-party content is also being added. And, the Digital Library subscription includes online access to ALL of the journals for one subscription fee.

The Digital Library is being offered in 2013 at a charter rate of $89 (and has a value of $200) to individual members. If you haven’t had the opportunity to check it out, a 30-day trial subscription is being offered, at no cost, so you can explore all that it has to offer. Visit https://dl.sciencesocieties.org to sign up.

For members with current print subscriptions (including those with a membership renewing in the first half of 2013), their print subscriptions have been replaced with a Digital Library subscription.