

## Editorial

The publication of the *Journal of Astrophysics & Astronomy (JAA)* was started in 1980 by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore as an international journal. The objective of the journal is to publish original research papers on all aspects of astrophysics and astronomy, including instrumentation, laboratory astrophysics and cosmology as well as critical reviews of topical fields so that the efforts of the Indian community in these fields can be made available globally. With time, the journal has evolved and also progressed remarkably in all aspects. The worldwide visibility and access to the journal have improved noticeably due to Academy's collaboration with Springer. The use of Editorial Manager (EM) system has enabled global contributor(s) to submit their manuscripts online. This has also enabled fast peer review management system and quick publication of the accepted manuscripts.

In order to make best use of the expertise of the Editorial Board members, each incoming manuscript is assigned by the Chief Editor to a scientific Editorial Board (EB) member who is a specialist in that particular field, who then identifies a referee and correspond with the referee and the authors until the paper is accepted/rejected. We, thus, adopt the standard procedure followed in most international journals in this field. The numbers of manuscripts submitted to the *JAA* increased from 152 in 2015 to 196 in 2016, indicating an increase of about 29%. However, the percentage of accepted manuscripts remained almost the same, i.e.  $\sim 23\%$  in both the years. The average time taken from manuscript submission to first report sent to the author was about 39 days in 2015 and improved slightly to 31 days in 2016. All these numbers speak about the active involvement of the Editorial office as well as the EB members in maintaining the aim and scope of the journal.

Since 2016, *JAA* is published, as done in most established international astrophysical journals, in Continuous Article Publishing (CAP) mode, i.e. an accepted

article is published immediately online with DOI and article citation ID. Articles thus become visible in Web of Science as well as to the international community without any delay. Taking note of these new initiatives, the number of manuscripts submitted to the *JAA* from India increased significantly from 49 in 2015 to 102 in 2016. Today, *JAA* receives contributions from over around the world including countries like USA and Europe, and 50% of the published papers are from authors abroad. In conformity with other journals of the Academy, we are moving from single column to the standard two column larger size format for *JAA* from this issue onwards.

During the last few years, *JAA* has published some special thematic issues on few mega upcoming observational facilities like Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) in June 2013 and Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in December 2016. This issue contains a special section devoted to the recently upgraded Ooty Wide Field Array (OWFA) while June 2017 issue will include a special section on the India unique multi-wavelength space observatory, ASTROSAT, launched successfully on 28 September 2015 which provides valuable observations of international importance.

As mentioned earlier, the advantages of publishing in *JAA* are that there are no page and no colour printing charges, a fairly flexible page limit for the papers, and publication with Springer that ensures high visibility and prompt, wide dissemination using latest and modern techniques like CAP. I hope that all these factors will induce authors to contribute high-quality papers, and thus make *JAA* into a more vibrant international journal.

**Ram Sagar**

*Editor-in-Chief  
J. Astrophys. Astr.*