

British Phycological Society
AGM Nottingham (Online) 5 th January 2021
Algae Outreach Committee Report: Martyn Kelly
<p>Algae Outreach Committee will, henceforth, be aimed primarily at facilitating outreach by BPS members rather than leading outreach and education initiatives itself. To this end, we are setting up an outward-facing “learning zone” on the BPS website and are looking for resources with which to populate this. The Video Bursary Scheme is one new initiative that will provide opportunities for ECRs to consider how to communicate their work, and which may, over time, provide potential resources that will explain phycology to lay audiences. A major outdoor exhibition of Hilda Canter-Lund images is taking place in Nottingham to coincide with BPS21 (also available online via the conference webpage). Our planned attendance at the Green Man festival was, inevitably, cancelled, but we still hope to be present at Green Man in 2021.</p>

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Awards and Training Committee, Chair Graham Underwood
<p>The A&T Committee oversees the BPS bursaries and awards programmes. It is Chaired by the Immediate-Past President. All the current BPS Council Ordinary Members are member and help to judge applications (3 plus Chair look at each round of applications). For the 1st February and 1st May application rounds a total of £19,551 of the nominal budget of £30,000 was awarded. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the ability of members to attend conference and courses, and numbers of application have fallen sharply this year since the Spring. A new Algae-Video bursary scheme linked to the Winter meeting ran in December 2020, and £1200 was awarded. Council agreed at the Summer council meeting that Awards and Training will adopt Equal opportunities monitoring for applications and use to increase equality and diversity, some minor changes to Funding Guidelines, these updates are now on the web. Council also approved to forward elements of the 2020 budget (approximately £10,000) into the 2021 award year for awarded projects adversely delayed by COVID-19.</p>

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Biodiversity & Conservation Committee: Chair Martin Wilkinson
<p>In 2020 all planned field meetings and courses had to be postponed owing to Covid. It is planned to run the Plymouth Seaweed id course in April 2021 if possible. We are waiting to find when the freshwater algae id course, now planned for the NHM, and the seaweed field meeting at St Andrews can be run. Another joint freshwater field meeting with the Quekett Microscopical Society at Malham in Yorkshire is provisionally planned for the Autumn. All of these will be publicized as soon as arrangements can be confirmed.</p> <p>The final part of the Seaweeds of the British Isles on brown seaweeds is nearing publication. Discussions are being held with CUP about the Freshwater Flora which is now out of print. The opportunity has been taken to include nomenclatural updates in a reprint of the 2nd edition of the SeaSearch Guide to Seaweeds.</p> <p>A desmid checklist for Britain and Ireland is being prepared. A red data list for red algae is being prepared and a charophyte red data list should be published by BSBI in Spring 2021.</p> <p>Increased effort is being directed to charophyte conservation.</p> <p>We are watching to see any consequences for algae courses and archives of the sale of the FBA Windermere Laboratory.</p> <p>The Scottish Government has set up a Seaweed Review Steering Group to look at possible developments but has confirmed that its ban on mechanical harvesting of wild kelp remains. We shall actively watch this.</p>

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EJP and AP Editor's Report: Christine Maggs, Juliet Brodie and John Beardall

European Journal of Phycology

Editorial team and general comments

Christine Maggs and Juliet Brodie have continued as joint Editors in Chief. Kate Schoenrock-Rossiter (NUIG) took on the role of Editorial Assistant.

Since January 2020, we are pleased to have new Associate Editors for Applied Phycology (Emily Kostas, UCL), Ecophysiology (Chris Williamson, Bristol) and Macroalgal Evolution and Genomics (Jeff Hughey, California).

Following the launch of Applied Phycology, EJPMC meetings were superseded by the Journals Management Committee, chaired by Graham Underwood. The meeting in May 2020 (with Jason Hall-Spencer standing in for Graham), covered many objectives of the new publishing agreement.

EJP held a virtual editorial meeting in July 2020, taking in a wide variety of comments and opinions from Associate Editors. These were incorporated in the final revision of the EJP Instructions for Authors. The main goals of this revision were to reduce manuscript length, encourage authors to use supplementary materials, and to avoid repetitive descriptions within taxonomic or other manuscripts.

Introduction of the new T&F submission portal in November caused some concerns to EJP but the problems are now mostly sorted out, with some minor disruption, and it should be of no further concern.

Submission rates

The last 12 months have been very busy with 136 new submissions to the journal.

Information based on original manuscripts with a submission date is on or after Jan 1, 2020

Manuscript Type	Original	Revised	Total
Original Article	129	0	129
Review	7	0	7
Total	136	0	136

Acceptance rates

The statistics on acceptance rates, as always, need to be considered as an indication only, due to complexities of timing and revised submissions.

Manuscript Decision	Number of Manuscripts	Percentage of Total
Accept	47	39.5 %
Reject	72	60.5 %
Total	119	100%

To clear a backlog of papers, we opted to purchase extra pages for the November issue, so we were able to publish in 2020 all papers that had been accepted and were in production by April 2020.

2020 issues

Volume 55 Issue 1 February 2020 (published in Feb) – 128 pp

Volume 55 Issue 2 May 2019 (published in June) – 124 pp

Volume 55 Issue 3 August (published in August) - 119 pp

Volume 55 Issue 4 November (published in August) - 154 pp

Journal Impact Factor

As reported in July, *European Journal of Phycology's* 2019 Impact Factor (IF) increased to 2.756 from its 2018 value of 2.562, which is its highest ever level. The 5-year IF increased from 2.621 to 2.827.



EJP is comfortably in Q1 in Marine & Freshwater Biology and now only just out of Q1 in Plant Sciences (1-2 journals between us and Q1!)

JCR Year ↕	PLANT SCIENCES			MARINE & FRESHWATER BIOLOGY		
	Rank	Quartile	JIF Percentile	Rank	Quartile	JIF Percentile
2019	59/234	Q2	75.000	16/106	Q1	85.3
2018	62/228	Q2	73.026	26/108	Q1	76.38
2017	59/223	Q2	73.767	21/106	Q1	80.66
2016	57/212	Q2	73.349	23/105	Q1	78.57
2015	61/209	Q2	71.053	25/104	Q1	76.44

However, the Editors noted that the 2020 IF was closely associated with the success of the Special Issue in applied phycology, Siew Moi Phang's Festschrift. We are also acutely aware that increasing the number of published papers in a year will affect the IF. We have therefore tried to increase the numbers published gradually.

A preliminary look at 2020 IF suggests a probable drop, not unexpectedly, though citations are not complete yet. The following papers from 2018 and 2019 have received the highest 2020 citations to date.

total articles 2018-2019						110
Sum of the Times Cited	all = 390					2020 = 247
Average Citations per Item	overall 3.55					current estimated IF = 2.24
Title	Authors	Publicat	Total C	2018	2019	2020
Ecophysiological and morphological comparison of two populations of <i>Chlainom</i>	Prochazkova, Lenka; Remias, Daniel; Holzinger, Andreas; Rezaei	2018	15	1	6	
High-throughput sequencing for algal systematics	Oliveira, Mariana C.; Repetti, Sonja I.; Iha, Cintia; Jackson, Chris	2018	14	1	7	
Six new epibiotic <i>Proschkinia</i> (Bacillariophyta) species and new insights into the	Majewska, Roksana; Bosak, Suncica; Frankovich, Thomas A.; A	2019	11	0	1	1
Microcystins, BMAA and BMAA isomers in 100-year-old Antarctic cyanobacterial	Jungblut, A. D.; Wilbraham, J.; Banack, S. A.; Metcalf, J. S.; Cod	2018	11	1	5	
Diversity of <i>Cystoseira</i> sensu lato (Fucales, Phaeophyceae) in the eastern Atlantic	Orellana, Sharay; Hernandez, Mariano; Sanson, Marta	2019	10	0	2	
A molecular assessment of species diversity and generic boundaries in the red al	Savoie, Amanda M.; Saunders, Gary W.	2019	10	0	5	
Hybrid vigour for thermal tolerance in hybrids between the allopatric kelps <i>Lamin</i>	Martins, Neusa; Pearson, Gareth A.; Gouveia, Lucinia; Tavares, F	2019	9	0	3	
Species delimitation methods reveal cryptic diversity in the <i>Hypnea</i> cornuta comp	de Jesus, Priscila Barreto; Costa, Adriele Leite; de Castro Nunes	2019	9	0	3	
Behavioural versus physiological photoprotection in epipelagic and epipsammic ben	Blommaert, Lander; Lavaud, Johann; Vyverman, Wim; Sabbe, K	2018	9	2	1	
Species distinctions among closely related strains of <i>Eustigmatophyceae</i> (Strame	Kryvenda, Anastasiia; Rybalka, Nataliya; Wolf, Matthias; Friedl, M	2018	9	0	3	
Extremely high level of reactive oxygen species (ROS) production in a newly isolate	Kim, Daekyung; Li Wencheng; Matsuyama, Yukihiko; et al.	2019	8	0	1	
Cryptic, alien and lost species: molecular diversity of <i>Ulva</i> sensu lato along the G	Steinhagen, S.; Karez, R.; Weinberger, F.	2019	6	0	0	
Nitrogen and phosphorus limitations induce carbon partitioning and membrane lip	Huang, Bing; Marchand, Justine; Blanckaert, Vincent; et al.	2019	6	0	0	

Applied Phycology

The journal has now functioned for two full years, with the first submissions in January 2019. Of a total of 37 articles received, 8 were for the Special Issue co-ordinated by Christine Campbell.

Information based on all original manuscripts from January 2020 onwards.

Manuscript Type	Original	Total
Research Article	23	23
Review	6	6
Special Issue Article	8	8
Total	37	37

Other Statistics - Accept Ratio (last 12 months)

Journal Statistics	Last 12 Months
Avg. days from submission to first decision	47.6
Avg. Reviewer turnaround time (days) - Original	13.2
Avg. Reviewer turnaround time (days) - Resubmission	0.0
Avg. Reviewer turnaround time (days) - Revision	4.6
Avg. Time to Assign Reviewer (days) - Original	5.4
Avg. Time to Assign Reviewer (days) - Resubmission	0.0
Avg. Time to Assign Reviewer (days) - Revision	2.1
Avg. days from submission to final decision	97.2

Editorial board

We have had three meetings with Associate Editors to discuss direction and scope and consider possible Special Issues. We are aiming to publish a Special Issue on Sustainable Development Goals (in relation to algae) in 2021. Hennie Thompson, our Managing Editor from T&F, has been hugely enthusiastic and influential in recruiting and involving new Associate Editors.

We now have a large pool of AEs and Editorial Board with a good diversity in gender, age and nationality.

Editor-in-Chief:

John Beardall - Monash University, Australia

Managing Editors:

Prof. Christine Maggs - Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK

Prof. Juliet Brodie - Natural History Museum, London, UK

Associate Editors

Guang Gao, College of Ocean and Earth Sciences, Xiamen University, China

Emily Kostas, BBSRC Discovery Fellow, Department of Biochemical Engineering, University College London, UK

Jan Krokowski, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, UK

Pawel Mordaka, PDRA, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK

Lucie Novoveska, Scottish Association for Marine Science, UK

Roshni Paul, Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment, Birmingham City University, UK

Michael Ross, PDRA, Scottish Association for Marine Science, UK

Jason Woodhouse, IGB, Berlin, Germany

Editorial Board**Applied phycology and environmental change**

Prof Kunshan Gao - Xiamen University, China

Liam Morrison - National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Biochemistry and related areas

Félix Lopez Figueroa - University of Malaga, Spain.

Tomohisa Hasunuma - Graduate School of Innovation, Science and Technology, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan.

Qiang Hu - Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China

Biotechnology

Shoshana Arad - Department of Biotechnology and Engineering, University of the Negev, Israel.

Saul Purton - University College London, UK

Systematics and population genetics

Phaik Eem Lim - Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences (IOES), University of Malaya, Malaysia

Anusuya Willis - Australian National Algae Culture Collection, National Research Collections Australia, Australia

Chris Yesson - The Zoological Society of London, UK

Wild seaweed resources and aquaculture

Alejandro Buschmann - Centro i~mar, Universidad de Los Lagos, Chile

Susan Brawley, University of Maine, USA

Carolina Camus, University of Los Lagos, Chile

Alvaro Israel - National Institute of Oceanography, Haifa, Israel

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FEMS Report: Anne Jungblut
<p>FEMS council meeting and AGM were held online on the 4th September 2020. FEMS is offering a Online Meeting Organizer Grant in addition to their standard Meeting Organizer Grant: https://fems-microbiology.org/about_fems/network-and-activities/grants/fems-meeting-grants/ in response to the increased number of online meetings due to COVID-19. BPS will be holding a special session at the 9th Congress of European Microbiologists conference, online, 11-15 July 2021 in Hamburg, Germany. The title of the session is "Diversity and ecology of aquatic phototrophic biofilms revealed interdisciplinary approaches and modern 'omics techniques" (https://fems2021.org/).</p>

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FEPS Report: Geoff Codd

1. FEPS Website.

<https://www.facebook.com/FEPSalgae/>

2. FEPS Journal: Perspectives in Phycology.

Due to the continuing difficulties with the publication of the FEPS journal (sharp decline in submitted manuscripts: no impact factor, logistical problems with publisher Schweizerbart), the two joint Editors, Profs. Mark Cock and Burchard Becker) have reluctantly resigned. A possible transfer of the journal to Springer has been considered but found to be not viable. In considering FEPS' future publications policy, an online survey/questionnaire is to be sent in the New Year to the national member societies for feedback on the case for a new FEPS journal, or other type of publication, to replace Perspectives in Phycology, for example to focus on areas of phycology which are not principally covered by the existing phycological journals published in Europe. As a possible alternative to publishing a traditional academic journal, other options such as educational resources are to be considered.

3. FEPS European Archive of Algal and Cyanobacterial Materials for Molecular Biology Research (EURARCH)

The EURARCH project convenor, Dr. Simona Armeli Minicante (Institute of Marine Science< ISMAR, Italy) is contacting national museums, herbaria, university collections etc on their holdings of preserved materials and exiccata suitable, and available, for molecular biological research. Responses have been received from the UK, Croatia, Czech Republic, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Poland and Italy, with those from France and Germany awaited.

4. IPC8: the 8th European Congress, Brest, France, 2023.

Progress

on the planning of EPC8 has been considered by FEPS Council with online input from the local organisers. It is planned to have: the Scientific Committee confirmed by June 2021; an outline of proposed symposia by Sept 2021 and the outline conference programme by Dec 2021. The local organisers confirmed that they aimed to offer a broad range of topics across symposia, to include molecular biology, systematics and physiology, in addition to organismal phycology. A conference website is to be created in 2021. Dr. Inka Bartsch (Germany) and Dr Wiebe Kooistra (Italy) are being invited to serve as Congress Co-Chairs to represent macro- and microalgal interests. Contingency plans are being developed to hold the Congress online or part-online. The possibility of different modes of participation with different levels of fees is also under consideration (e.g. full [live] attendance versus online registration).

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Membership Secretary: Hilary Redden
<p>On, 26th December 2020, the active membership of the Society was 480, this includes our current 11 Honorary Life Members.</p> <p>There is an increase in members wanting a physical copy of the EJP. In 2020, 123 (26%) opt to receive the EJP by post. Although this is the same percentage as 2019 the actual number of printed copies is up from 109 and 59 in 2019 and 2018. This, of course, is backed up by the virtual copy accessible through the website.</p> <p>Membership is up but the relative proportions of members in each category has only altered slightly. Total membership is 104 members more than 2019. This is the highest number for since 2007. Student membership is now 35% of our total.</p> <p>The EJP is still being supplied and postal lists have been supplied to T&F when requested this year. For members who miss issues, I usually request 10 extra copies. For those with large or older issue gaps in EJP collections individual issues can sometimes be supplied by the goodwill of other members.</p> <p>A postal list was not required for The Phycologist as the most recent issue was produced solely on-line.</p>

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Winter Council Meeting Nottingham (Online) 4th January 2021

Editor of the Phycologist Report: Amanda Burson

Apologies for the extended delay in receiving your printed copy of the Spring issue, #98. This was due to a temporary closure of the printers due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The next issue marks the 100th issue of The Phycologist! If you have any especially interesting article ideas, this is the issue to send them in!

Printing costs 2020:

Phycologist #98 - £364.80 printing 45 copies + delivery; Postage costs £93.77

Phycologist #99 - £248.80 printing 45 copies + delivery; Postage costs £100.27

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RSB Report: Graham Underwood
<p>The BPS is a full organisational member of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). The RSB is a single unified voice for biology: advising Government and influencing policy; advancing education and professional development; and encouraging public interest in the life sciences. This year the RSB has responded to the review of learned society publishing activity and income generation, in response to plans to make all publishing open access. UKRI are to announce the outcome of this consultation in Spring 2021. We receive various notifications of events and training, which are passed to Council member and Society members where appropriate. The BPS will remain a member of the RSB in 2021.</p>

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Secretary Report: Francis Bunker
<p>Much of my work as secretary this year has involved forwarding or answering emails, including requests several requests for the identification of freshwater algae which I normally pass to David John and Martyn Kelly.</p> <p>When I have received notice of events that would be of interest to members, I have forwarded these to Andy Davies and Sally Archer-Thomson to be posted on the web site.</p> <p>There has been the usual plethora of spam, phishing or touting for business (especially from conference organisers) and scientific writing advice businesses has been received.</p> <p>I helped the our newly co-opted treasurer, Nicky Slee, with information needed to fill in the Charity Commissioners online forms.</p> <p>The archive of BPS secretary correspondence was handed over by the last secretary, Jane Pottas and this has been archived by the Natural History Museum.</p>

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Student Members Report: Hannah Kemp and Eleanor Wood
Summary paragraph of the report for inclusion in Council meeting/AGM minutes <p>Our main focus over the last 6 months has been drumming up engagement for the BPS 2021 annual meeting via social media channels as well as sharing ECR infographics, both of which have received a lot of attention and boosted follow numbers by 72%.</p> <p>A lot of time has also been spent on the Hidden World of Algae exhibition as part of BPS outreach. Hopefully we will get some feedback on the virtual format over the next week.</p> <p>We aim to speak to many of the ECRs coming to the conference this week about what they would like from the society as well as how we can get them more involved.</p>

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Treasurer (Nicky Slee (NS) co-opted Treasurer)

Maeve Edwards (ME) resigned as Treasurer at the last AGM but stayed on to handover to the new Treasurer. The Society would like to thank Maeve for her work as Treasurer, keeping the payments up today and having an organised set of paperwork to hand over to the next person. Nicky Slee was co-opted as Acting Treasurer in July. ME has shared BPS accounts in July 2020. It took until October 2020 to get Nicky Slee's (NS) name added as a Signatory to the Bank of Scotland current account. Further accounts will be transferred to the new Treasurer. ME had been in regular contact with the FEB Chartered Accountants, Belfast, Northern Island to try to get the YE2017 accounts finalised; COVID-19 meant staff were furloughed and or working from home. In October NS took over the challenge, and after active and very regular contact with the accountants, the YE2017 and YE2018 accounts were signed off on 12 December 2020. The Charity Commission required updating and ME and NS updated this on 17 December 2020 so that I had access and enabled the accounts to be uploaded. The YE 2017 accounts and the annual return were uploaded 871 days late on 17.12.2020; the YE2018 accounts and annual return were uploaded 507 days late on 18.12.2020 (See attached accounts and reports for YE2017 and YE2018).

The 2019 accounts have not yet been prepared for external examination by the current Accountants; The Acting Treasurer has the accounts ready to hand to a new company of accountants. Council propose that the YE 2019 are taken on by P Murray ACCA L M Griffiths & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants, 1&2 Merlins Court, Winch Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 1SB who have indicated they can produce finalised accounts by end of March 2020; at present the YE2019 accounts are 152 days late (29.12.20). The AGM is asked to approve the new accountants, and give the finance sub-committee the authority to approve the 2019 accounts for uploading to the Charity Commission when signed off. These accounts will be presented to the AGM in 2022.

As the current Society financial year ends on 30th September it has not been possible to return up to date accounts to the Charity Commission. To enable reporting to be carried out to comply with Charity Commission requirements, the Year End date needs to be moved to align with Tax year. Propose that this occurs for the YE 2021 (i.e ends on 5 April 2021).

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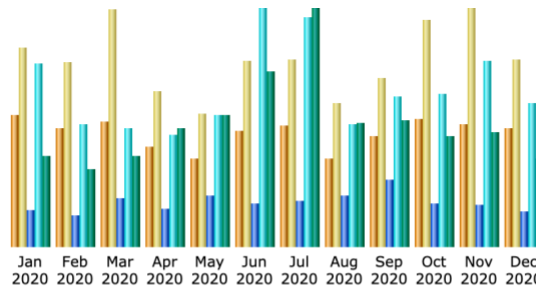
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Webmaster's Report: A. J. Davies

Our website template has been updated to reflect the new logo and branding design accepted by Council. Overall, the site has been functioning well, with only limited downtime reported (99.8% uptime over the last calendar year), however our page speed is low and will be a focal area for improvement during 2021 as is improving the Canter-Lund award pages with more interactivity.

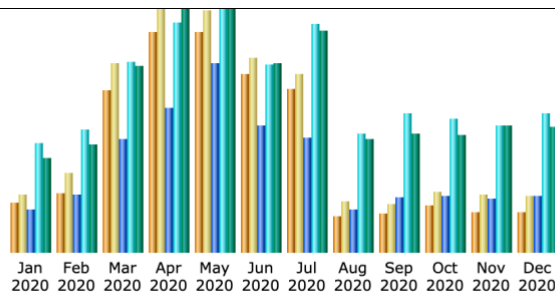
The January 1st annual renewal process has gone well again, as it did in early 2020. The vast majority of annual renewals went through without a hitch, however, 15 renewals failed due to members not having the correct credit card details on PayPal, each has been contacted. One member complained about their automatic renewal as they had failed to cancel their membership prior to the renewal date, which was dealt with immediately via a refund and apology. We will be adding a note to member communications about the Winter Meeting highlighting the automatic renewal process in future in order to avoid this situation.

Our visitor statistics remain strong with over 3000 unique visitors per month:



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2020	3,997	6,061	40,048	201,118	4.19 GB
Feb 2020	3,602	5,614	34,349	133,699	3.59 GB
Mar 2020	3,799	7,234	52,844	129,746	4.16 GB
Apr 2020	3,027	4,728	41,704	121,934	5.47 GB
May 2020	2,675	4,032	55,631	144,481	6.09 GB
Jun 2020	3,540	5,672	46,740	260,603	8.11 GB
Jul 2020	3,688	5,676	49,935	251,554	10.99 GB
Aug 2020	2,672	4,356	55,578	133,198	5.71 GB
Sep 2020	3,347	5,116	73,655	164,843	5.85 GB
Oct 2020	3,865	6,913	47,667	167,410	5.12 GB
Nov 2020	3,709	7,243	46,106	203,636	5.29 GB
Dec 2020	3,591	5,700	38,586	157,168	4.04 GB
Total	41,512	68,345	582,843	2,069,390	68.61 GB

BPS Algal Records remains under the Webmaster's control, and has seen strong usage during March to July 2020. Potentially people working on data driven projects during the year. Visitor numbers have been healthy and have settled back to an average seen in 2019, and early 2020:



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2020	827	969	1,379	3,563	48.57 MB
Feb 2020	995	1,321	1,862	4,016	55.69 MB
Mar 2020	2,710	3,163	3,684	6,214	96.47 MB
Apr 2020	3,688	4,088	4,726	7,519	126.58 MB
May 2020	3,694	4,045	6,164	7,964	126.18 MB
Jun 2020	2,987	3,267	4,151	6,114	98.16 MB
Jul 2020	2,728	2,989	3,750	7,461	114.64 MB
Aug 2020	604	849	1,408	3,876	58.66 MB
Sep 2020	650	806	1,799	4,551	61.34 MB
Oct 2020	782	1,018	1,828	4,366	60.51 MB
Nov 2020	670	967	1,729	4,141	65.79 MB
Dec 2020	667	936	1,855	4,534	65.25 MB
Total	21,002	24,418	34,335	64,319	977.85 MB