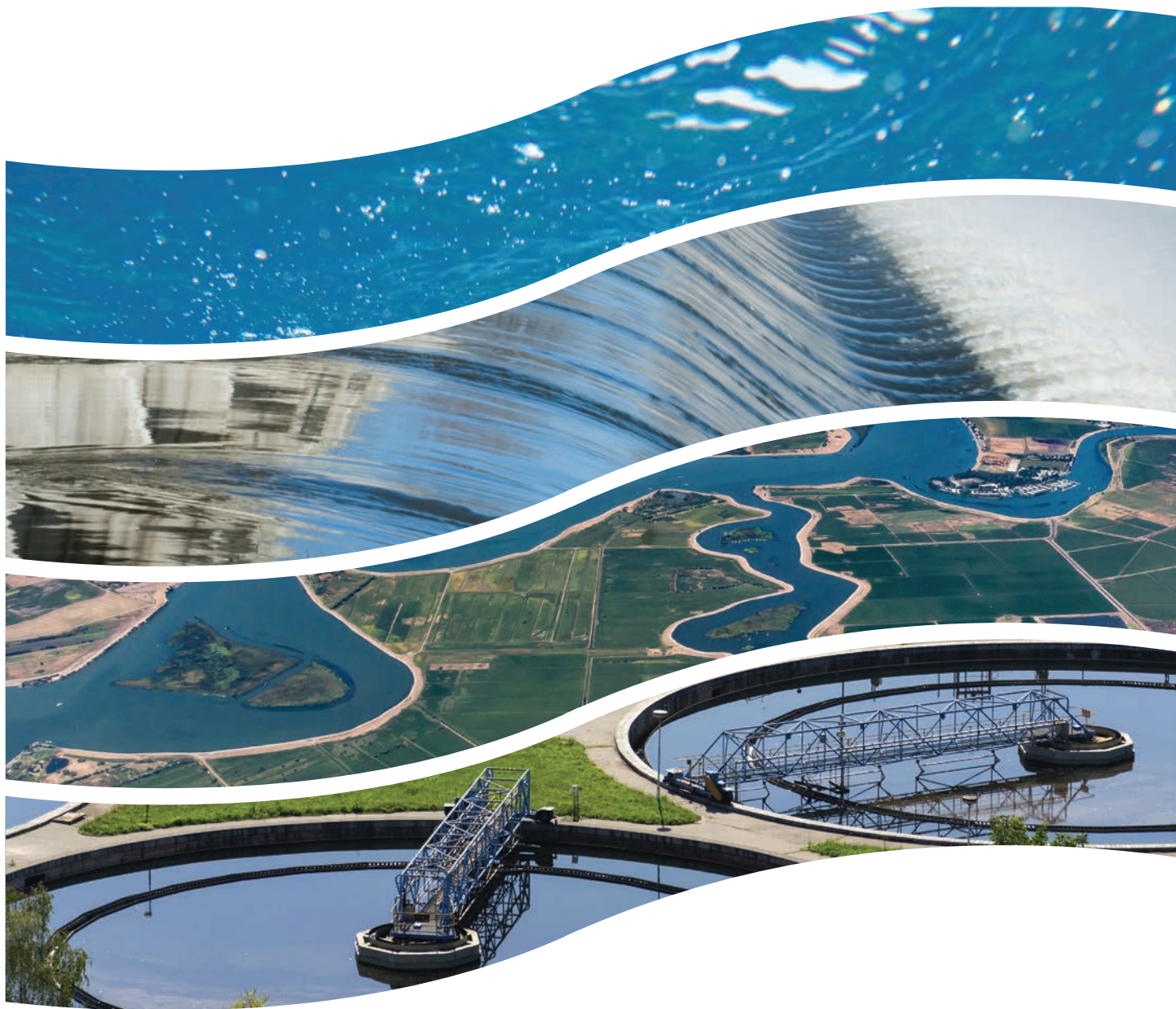


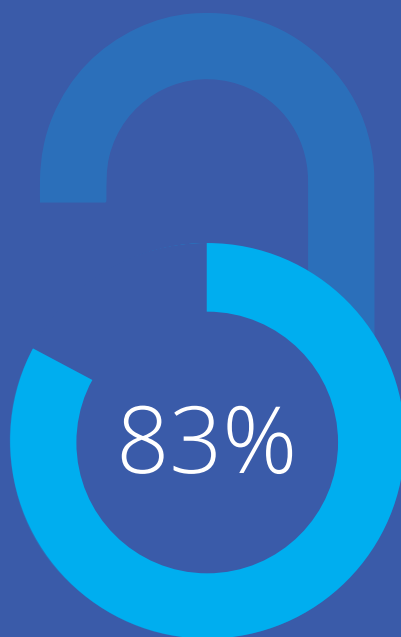
Annual Report 2021



Highlights from 2021



of journal articles
published were
Open Access



of books
published were
Open Access



A year of change... and openness



2021 was a year of great change for IWA Publishing. For the first time, all of our journals were Open Access. This was possible thanks to an initiative called Subscribe To Open (S2O).

Through it, university libraries pledged to support 10 of our journals - including *Water Science & Technology*, *AQUA* and *Journal of Water and Health* - so that they could become fully Open Access with no charges for publication. As a result, there are now no barriers to publishing in, or reading, these S2O journals. All of our journals are now compliant with the EU's Horizon Europe programme and the requirements of other national and non-governmental funding organisations.

The impact of our move to Open Access has been immediate and impressive. Article downloads increased 109% in 2021, and citations increased by 46%. The move to Open Access has been popular with authors as well. Article submissions grew by 8% and the Net Promoter Score (NPS) for our S2O journals rose to 73. To put that in perspective, Apple has an NPS of 47 and Facebook -21. In our author survey, Open Access policies are now the third most commonly cited reason for publishing in our journals, out of sixteen possible choices. Open Access is extremely popular with researchers.

Our publishing programme also changed to better reflect the global water community in 2021. Half of our journals now have an Editor-in-Chief in China or India, for instance, and an initiative is underway to increase Editorial Board representation from Africa.

Thanks to the hard work of all of our contributors - including Editors, reviewers and authors - the Impact Factors of our journals increased by 37% on average last year. This continues a long period of

improvement, with our Impact Factors more than doubling over the past five years. Citations now come from a wide range of countries, with our Top 10 citing countries in 2021 spread across five continents. What we publish is becoming more inclusive, fairer and better.

If you are based in a university, please encourage your library to support our innovative Subscribe To Open programme so we can ensure that this progress continues.

It was a busy year for books too, with 29 titles published. 83% were Open Access, meaning that everyone can read them. It was particularly pleasing to see that our most downloaded book in 2021 was the Arabic translation of *Biological Wastewater Treatment*, underlining the (perhaps obvious) point that research doesn't need to be published in English to have high impact.

I thank you for your support in a busy and exciting year. I am very proud that IWA Publishing has been able to make all of its journals Open Access in 2021 and look forward to enabling our journals and books to become even better servants of the global community in 2022 with your help.

Rod Cookson, Managing Director

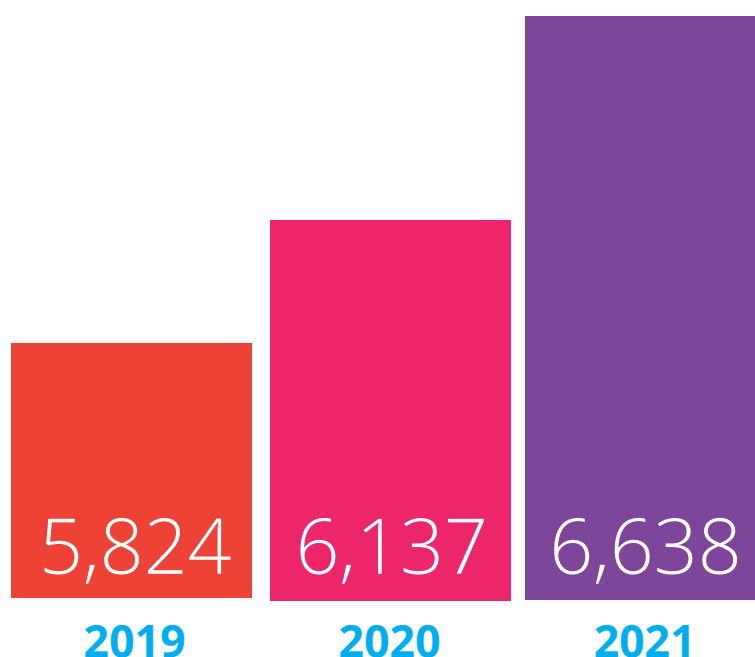
"The Open Access policy is amazing. I will publish in *Water Science and Technology* a lot more in the future as a result."

Professor Chris de Groot, Western University Canada

Improving journal performance - faster publication, more submissions

In 2021, journal submissions and publications continued on an upward trajectory, the combined result of the journals' improved accessibility through Open Access, increasing impact, and the efforts of the international Editorial teams to solicit contributions from the top researchers in the field. Sustainability and development were key themes in many of the Special Issues published across the journals.

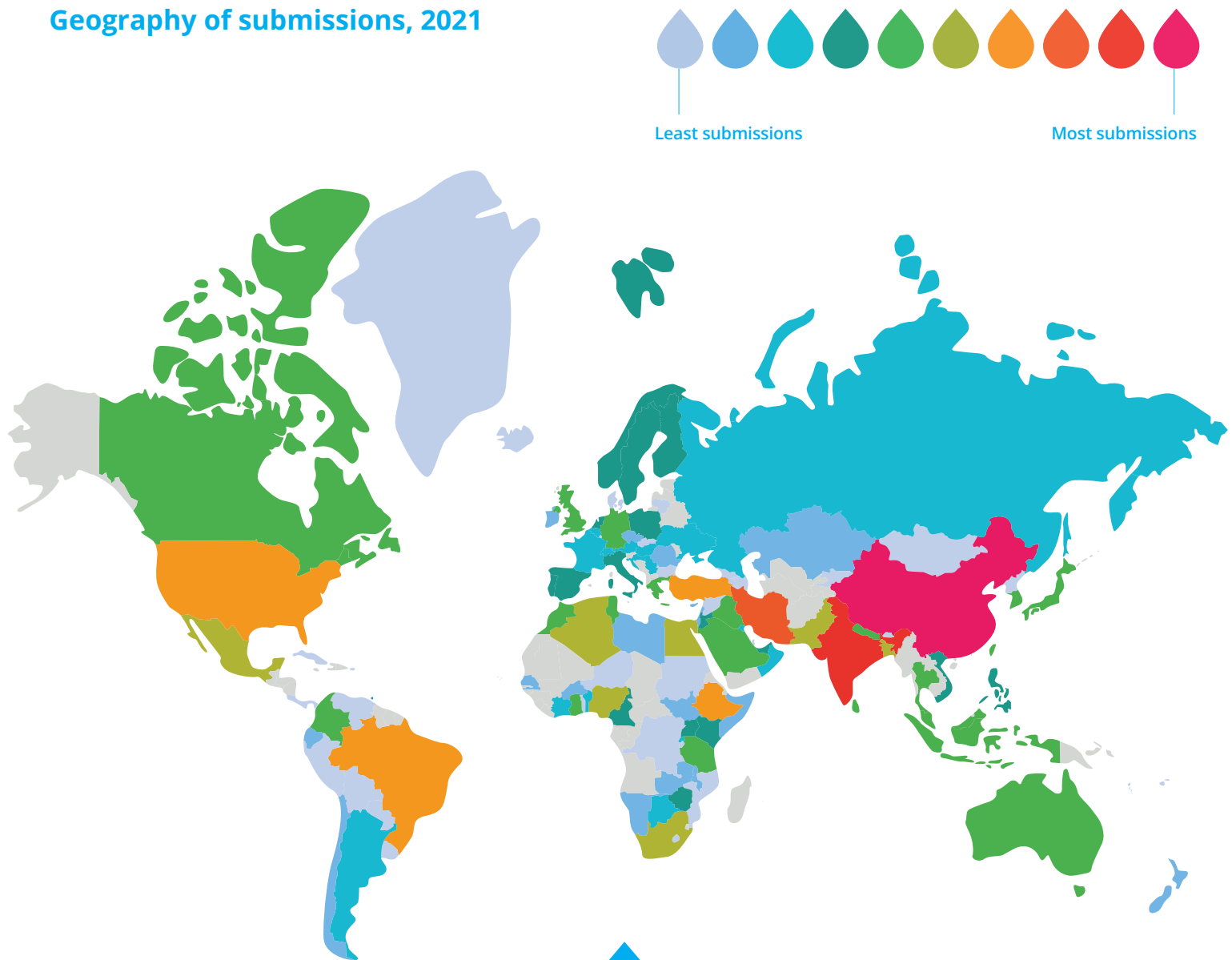
Annual growth in submissions, 2019-2021



Through the year, we worked with our Editor teams to streamline peer review processes and improve author experience. The benefits of these initiatives can now be seen. The time from submission to first decision on *Water Science and Technology* is now as low as 13 days on average, for example. Authors who respond to the Author Survey reported high levels of satisfaction in all aspects of review and production, with the Net Promoter Score for 2021 at 73.

Our Editorial Boards now cover the world, with an ongoing aim to increase representation in the Global South, and further encourage participation from researchers in the region.

Geography of submissions, 2021



The time from
submission to first
decision on *Water
Science and Technology*
is now as low as
13 days
on average

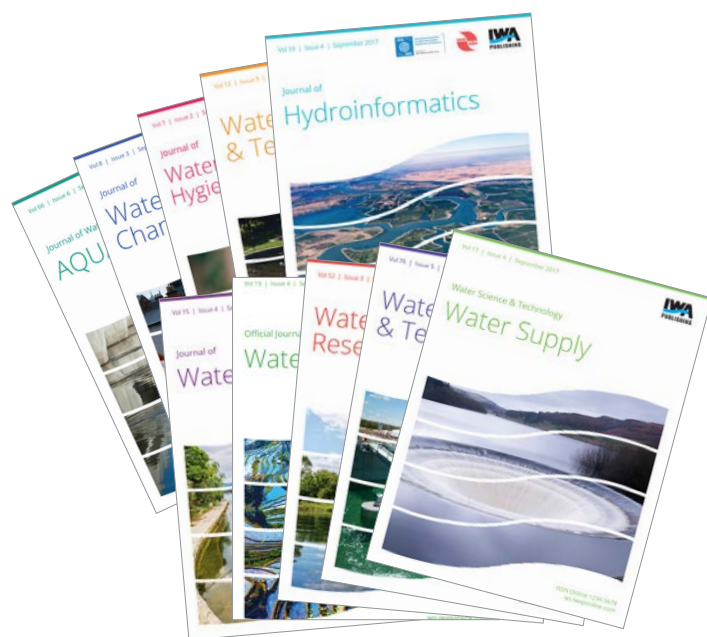
Engaging the global community through Open Access

We flipped ten journals to Open Access on a model called Subscribe To Open (S2O) in 2021.

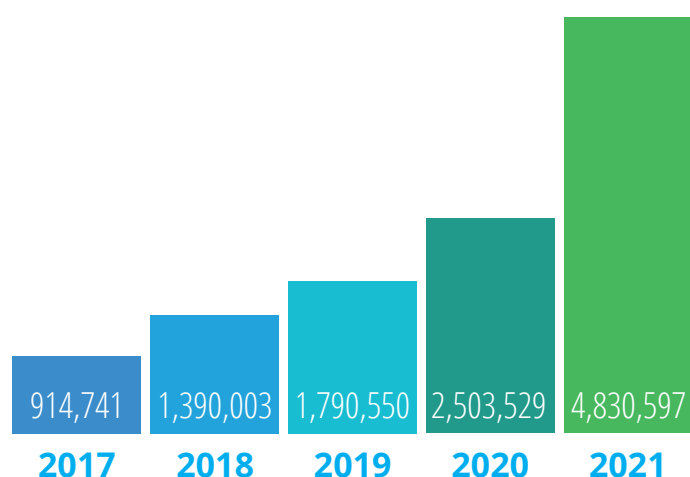
This includes *Water Science and Technology*, *Journal of Water and Health*, *AQUA*, *Water Policy* and *Journal of Hydroinformatics*. With S2O, libraries continue to pay subscriptions. That money enables the journals to be free to read and free to publish in, meaning that there are no publication charges for the ten S2O journals. It is a genuinely fair, equitable and inclusive model which works well for everyone.

The results of S2O have been very impressive. Downloads of the 10 S2O journals more than doubled in 2021. The additional readership has come from all over the world. Usage is significantly up in the USA, Germany, UK, Canada and France, as well as increasing rapidly in China, India, Brasil, the Philippines and South Africa.

Anecdotal feedback from researchers has been very positive and confirms how much the journals have been transformed by S2O. As one professor from Canada noted when his article in *Water Science and Technology* was published, "The Open Access policy is amazing. I will publish here a lot more in the future as a result". Very simply, what we publish can now be read by the entire global water community.

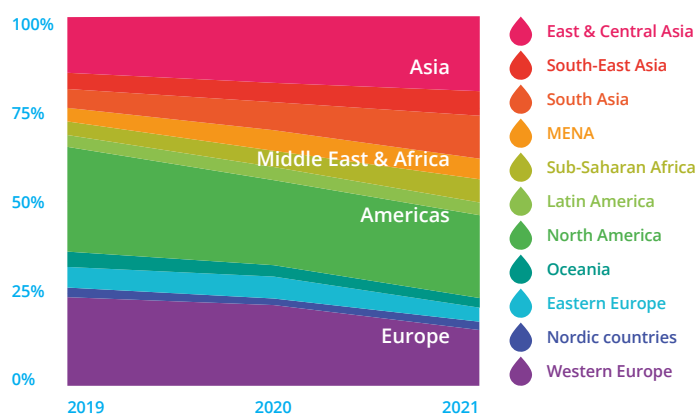


Article downloads, all journals, 2017-2021



We continue to expand our range of non-English publications. Books published in 2021 included Hindi translations of *Wetland Technology* and *Treatment Wetlands*, a French version of *Climate-resilient water safety plans* and Spanish translations of *Performance Indicators for Wastewater Services*, *Treatment Wetlands*, *Standard*

Source of journal downloads, 2019-2021



Definitions for Water Losses and Wetland Technology. Our journal content includes more than 550 articles in Spanish and Portuguese. In addition, Google Translate allows the content on our platform to be understood in 109 different languages, all the way from Albanian to Zulu.

Making our publications more sustainable

We aim to minimise the environmental footprint of our publications. Our printers are ISO 14001 (Environment Management Systems) compliant, and only use Forest Stewardship Council certified paper.

We employ Print On Demand technology, meaning that books and journals are delivered directly from the printer to customers with minimal waste and no warehousing cost. Our online journal platform is cloud-based, reducing energy usage compared to physical servers. Our London office uses 100% renewable energy, with on-site solar panels and a zero-to-landfill waste policy.

We are also a signatory of the UN's SDG Publishers Compact. Signatories aspire to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the SDGs during the [Decade of Action](#) (2020-2030), publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop, and inspire action in that direction.

IWA Publishing's SDG journal articles



Research articles:

11,346

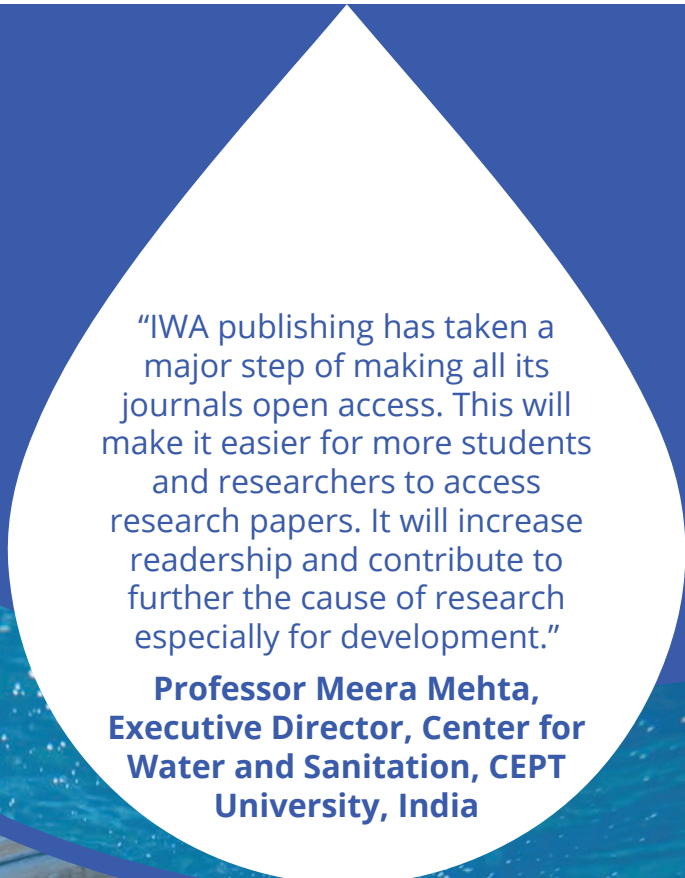
IWA Publishing made great progress in 2021. We were able to do that because of the help and industry of our authors, our editors, our reviewers, our partnering libraries and our staff. We thank you for your support and your feedback, and look forward to working with you to create a more sustainable and open water future.

We would love to hear your experiences of working with IWA Publishing. Send comments, questions and thoughts to us at publications@iwap.co.uk.

Follow our journey on Twitter [@IWAPublishing](#). Thanks in advance!

"Sustainable Open Access enables the global sharing of knowledge, enhancing the discovery and rigorous analysis of ideas. Subscribe To Open is a simple, efficient and fair way of ensuring its long term sustainability."

Richard Steeden,
Key Account Manager
at IWA Publishing

A large white water drop shape on a blue background, containing text and a quote.

“IWA publishing has taken a major step of making all its journals open access. This will make it easier for more students and researchers to access research papers. It will increase readership and contribute to further the cause of research especially for development.”

Professor Meera Mehta,
Executive Director, Center for
Water and Sanitation, CEPT
University, India



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