



International Society of Zoological Sciences  
Progress Report 2004 - 2008

Prepared by the Secretariat on behalf  
of the ISZS and its members

August 2008

The International Society of Zoological Sciences unites scholars  
and educators with national and professional organisations to  
promote the integrative science of zoology

## Forward by the President of the International Society of Zoological Sciences

*The 2008 ISZS Report outlines the progress made following the laying of foundations for international zoology in Athens in 2000 and confirmation of these in Beijing in 2004. We can now, with some pride, claim the International Society of Zoological Sciences as a fully functioning scientific phenomenon – one of the first such bodies to be established in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It has arisen from a widely acknowledged need to integrate research and education within the many different facets of Kingdom Animalia – and this has been accomplished through re-establishment of links between greatly disparate disciplines within the zoological sciences. Stellar progress has been achieved – initially through the support of a small group of dedicated international visionaries, who helped crystallize vision into reality in Athens eight years ago. More recently, the establishment of the ISZS Secretariat in Beijing has facilitated the transformation of the Society from simply a “Zoological Congress Organizing Committee” to a truly international institution. Inspired leadership within the Secretariat and Executive has provided a new vehicle for outreach, permitting the Society to look outwards, and in particular to provide a much needed “presence of zoological sciences” in developing nations.*

*There is no issue with the realization that the world is currently facing significant environmental, economic and social crises, and it is clear that these problems pose serious threats to the survival of the biosphere as we know it. The International Society of Zoological Sciences is increasingly giving zoologists a platform from which they can provide guidance, not simply to aspiring biological scientists, but also to the wider community, in the confidence that our mentorship will be pivotal in successfully confronting the environmental problems of tomorrow.*



**Dr John Buckeridge**  
**President**



## Forward by the Honorary Secretary of the International Society of Zoological Sciences

*Four years is a long time for me, but a short time for the ISZS.*

*As always, it started with some surprises. Four years ago, the ISZS was just an idea and now it is a functioning organization with an office, four dedicated staff, a strong and supportive Executive Committee, and 35 corporate members cross the world. A new organization always faces the challenge of key questions such as: What difference can we make to the world? Such questions have been raised again and again from others and me, and now, I am extremely happy that the ISZS has matured and made a difference to the field of zoology. It brings together a group of zoologists from very different disciplines and provides tools such as our journal and website, workshops, and working groups to discuss and promote integrative zoology. I am also very proud that the Secretariat is based in China as it provides us with a chance to promote the global study of zoology directly from a country rich in biodiversity while benefiting zoological studies and conservation in China.*

*The world is becoming more closely linked and what were once corners of the world are now separated by no more than an email or a flight. Other processes such as globalization and climate change are also impacting our globe. The ISZS is one mechanism that can operate on a global scale to address issues common to different regions of the world. However, there is a long way for the ISZS to go. Humans are placing more and more pressure on the rest of the animals of this world: there are great challenges for zoologists to address such as saving wild animals and the sustainable use of animal species. My wish is to see the ISZS, with support from its 20 000 members world wide, soon leading international research programs to achieve a more balanced world where nature and people exist in harmony.*



**Dr Xie Yan**  
**Honorary Secretary**



## Acknowledgements

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From 2004 to 2008 the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) provided the ISZS Secretariat with basic operational funding. The Bureau of International Collaboration, CAS provided essential financial support to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ISIZ and the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> ICZ, in addition to some operational funding. The Department of International Affairs, Chinese Association of Science and Technology provided valuable support to the 19<sup>th</sup> ICZ and assisted the Secretariat in registering the ISZS in China. The Chinese Zoological Society provided important assistance in organizing the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> ICZ and in the establishment of the ISZS in 2004. Wiley-Blackwell, John Wiley & Sons has given generous help and much technical assistance in publishing the ISZS journal *Integrative Zoology*.

This report has been prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the ISZS and its members. As of August 2008 the Secretariat comprised the following staff:

Honorary Secretary: Yan Xie

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## Terms used throughout the report

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<b>CAS</b>	Chinese Academy of Science
<b>ICZ</b>	International Congress of Zoology
<b>INZ</b>	Integrative Zoology, the official journal of the ISZS
<b>IOZ</b>	Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
<b>ISIZ</b>	International Symposium of Integrated Zoology
<b>ISZS</b>	International Society of Zoological Sciences
<b>ISZS IRP</b>	International Research Program of the International Society of Zoological Sciences
<b>OIL</b>	Online International Laboratory

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## 1 History of the ISZS

In January 2004 under the impetus of J Buckeridge, D Por and Z Zhang an initiative to establish an International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) was endorsed at the General Assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences. Later in August 2004, at the XIX International Congress of Zoology (ICZ) in Beijing, it was decided to establish the ISZS and create a permanent Secretariat in Beijing.

According to the ISZS Statues, the mission of the ISZS is:

‘To unite individual scholars and educators with national and professional organizations to promote an integrative study of animal organisms. It will promote co-ordination, collaboration and co-operation between different specialized fields of zoological sciences, involving both recent and extinct animal taxa. It will strive to attain a rational and ethically balanced relationship between humanity and nature.’

The main activities of the ISZS are to organize the ICZ (held every four years) as a pre-eminent forum for exchange between zoologists. During each ICZ the ISZS will review achievements and problems in zoological research over the previous four years, recommend further developments and trends in zoological research, and identify priority activities of the ISZS.

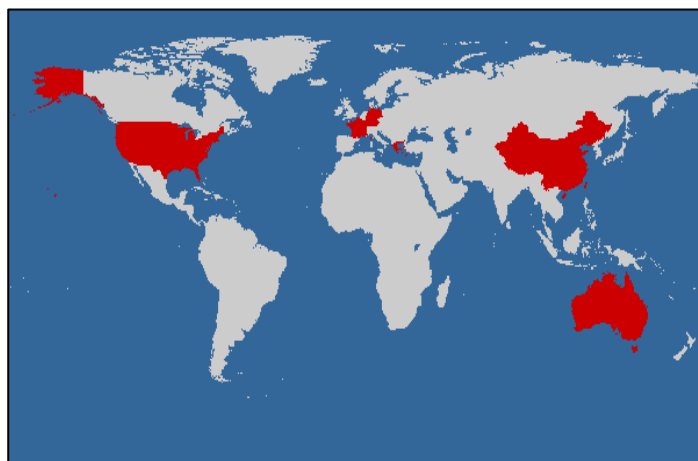
The major functions of the Secretariat is routine maintenance of the ISZS. This includes running the ISZS website ([www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org)), sending an electronic newsletter, publishing an international journal of zoological sciences (*Integrative Zoology*), membership services, organizing symposia, networking zoological data internationally and launching international programs for joint research, public education and for young zoologists.

## 2 Major Progresses 2004 to 2008

In the last four years, work at the Secretariat has been concrete and fruitful. Under the direction of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat has coordinated the drafting, review and approval of the statutes of the ISZS, which function as the constitution of the society. Concurrent with this, the Secretariat coordinated and negotiated with different organizations in China with the outcome being formal registration of the ISZS with the Ministry of Civil Affairs. In 2006, the Secretariat launched the ISZS international journal of zoological sciences – *Integrative Zoology*. With the help of co-publishers the IOZ and Wiley-Blackwell, John Wiley & Sons the Secretariat launched two websites: [www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org) and [www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/INZ](http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/INZ).

### 2.1 Executive Committee Meetings

Three Executive Committee meetings were held in Beijing in 2004, 2006 and 2007. The Executive Committee members during this time were John Buckeridge (President; Australia) Zhibin Zhang (Vice-President; China), Jean-Marc Jallon (Vice-President; France), Michael Schmitt (Germany), Edwin L. Cooper (USA), Rosa Polymeni (Greece), and Song Daxiang (China; sadly, now deceased).



The countries of origin of the Executive Committee





*ISZS Executive Committee in 2007*

Several issues were consistently discussed across all meetings of the Executive: in particular the hosting of the next ICZ in Paris, Integrative Zoology and the structure of ISZS membership. The minutes from these meetings are at Attachment A.

## **2.2 Membership**

According to the statutes of the ISZS, membership of the ISZS will be as individuals and organizations (the latter being corporate membership). As of 30 June 2008, there were 35 corporate members from 16 countries comprising over 20 000 zoologists; and 259 individual members from 31 countries around the globe. Compared to the beginning of ISZS in 2004, there were only four corporate members and 86 individual members.

To promote the ISZS the Secretariat undertook a variety of actions. These included distributing copies of Integrative Zoology at various occasions, increasing ISZS impact through the executive members, email connections with those who attended the XIX ICZ and relevant societies and organizations around the world.

**Membership to the Society  
is growing: there are now  
259 individual members  
from 31 countries and 35  
corporate members  
representing a further  
20 000 members**



*The geographic distribution of members as at March 2008*

Recently, the Secretariat reviewed the way it processed new membership and identified several areas that needed improvement. The ISZS now has a Member's Pack that is sent to all new members. This pack includes:

- A welcome letter from the President
- Certificate of membership (with the newly-created official ISZS seal)
- Full list of members
- Promotional material for the ISZS
- Back-issues of *Integrative Zoology*
- Contact cards for all Secretariat staff
- Promotional material for *Integrative Zoology*
- Corporate membership application form

**The ISZS will have a strong presence at the upcoming and future International Congresses of Zoology**

In preparation for the ICZ in Paris, the Secretariat has redesigned all promotional material and out-sourced the design of these items. To meet the needs of different audiences the Secretariat has focused on the distribution of four key communications:

- An A4/A3 poster raising awareness of the ISZS
- A double-sided A4 flier describing *Integrative Zoology* and calling for papers
- An A5 brochure on the programs of the ISZS
- A creative postcard promoting our website, [www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org)

### **2.3 Our Journal *Integrative Zoology***

Soon after the establishment of the ISZS, the Secretariat started to prepare for publication of the society journal. At the end of 2005, the Secretariat signed a contract with Wiley-Blackwell, the publisher, and in March 2006 formally launched the journal with the name *Integrative Zoology*. To date 10 issues of the journal have been published.

Wiley-Blackwell delivers an annual report to the Secretariat on the performance of *Integrative Zoology* (report at Attachment B). Of note were the following achievements:

- A 153% increase in the number of full-text article downloads through Blackwell Synergy and other online hosts.
- A 177% increase in the total number of readers registered for *Integrative Zoology* e-toc service.
- A 50% increase in institutional subscriptions.

In terms of the distribution of people accessing journal content, statistics from Wiley-Blackwell showed that 16 countries across five continents downloaded material. The top ten countries were China (20%), USA (13%), UK (12%), Australia (5%), Canada (5%), Germany (4%), Brazil (4%), Mexico (3%), Hungary (3%), and France (3%). Recently, the Secretariat visited the Beijing





Cover design Volume 3 Issue 2, June 2008

offices of Thomson Reuters, manager of Thomson ISI in China. It was learned that the Secretariat should lodge an application letter to the assessment office located in the USA to commence the assessment process for *Integrative Zoology* to be included into the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE). The Secretariat also consulted our publisher and has been working with them on the application. The application was lodged formally in July 2008 and letters of recommendation, journal information and upcoming issues will be sent to Thomson ISI as required.

#### **2.4 Our Website [www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org)**

The Secretariat commenced a review of its online environment in June 2008. The first phase of this review was a questionnaire sent to all individual members asking for their opinions on the current performance of the website and some proposals

for future content. The full results of this questionnaire are at Attachment C.

Findings from the survey indicated that the website is currently easy to use for members and, amongst respondents, the awareness of the website was high. *Integrative Zoology* was an important source for raising awareness of the website while the website is also an important avenue for people accessing the journal, this relationship is a positive one and shows how connected the journal and the society are. Irrelevance and out-of-date information are causing members to visit the site infrequently and there is a strong desire for zoological news content, funding information, meeting updates and an e-newsletter. There is also strong support for more member-inclusive features such as a discussion board, members corner and research opportunities. The challenge is to create an online environment where users feel they need to

return, get value from and want to contribute.

The design of a new look for [www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org) is now underway and is expected to be launched in October 2008.

## 2.5 Symposia and Education

In 2006 and 2007 the Secretariat organized two International Symposia of Integrative Zoology (ISIZ). The 1<sup>st</sup> ISIZ was in Beijing in October 2006. Fifty-eight zoologists from five countries attended. John Buckeridge, (President ISZS), Zhibin Zhang (Vice-President ISZS, Director-General IOZ), and Han Jianguo (Director-General National Natural Science Foundation of China) attended, and delivered speeches at the symposium. A further 11 zoologists from various sub-disciplines of zoology also presented scientific reports.

A second and much larger ISIZ symposium took place in Beijing in December 2007 and was attended by over 150 zoologists from 24 countries. This represented a three fold increase in attendants and a four-fold increase in the number of countries represented. Li Jiayang (Deputy-President CAS) delivered opening remarks which were followed by over 10 plenary reports and 60 presentations. Additional activities the ISZS participated in include the International Conference of Rodent Biology and Management, International Workshops of Integrative Zoology, seminars for students and researchers in zoological sciences, lectures on integrative zoology to international college students and public visits to zoology museums – all organized and facilitated by the Secretariat.

**Our journal, *Integrative Zoology* is being accessed around the world. Last year downloads increased by 153% and the number of researchers receiving content alerts grew by 177%**

### 3 Secretariat Structure

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Under the leadership of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat is currently divided into six major areas of responsibility: Integrative Zoology editing and publishing, International Congress of Zoology preparation and maintenance, communication, membership service, website and finance.

As the Secretariat is still developing and operating on an extremely tight budget, each business area is connected to, and dependent upon, other functional areas. Importantly, the Secretariat needs to be responsive to the ISZS membership, including the provision of informed and timely responses to issues arising. In light of this, the Secretariat has adopted a structure that places staff within different areas of responsibility, allowing them to develop a broad competence in all fields of their work.

The responsibilities of each working area are set out below:

#### Integrative Zoology editing and publishing

- Article management and promotion
- Liaise with Blackwell-Wiley
- Account keeping

#### Communication, membership service

- Society and journal promotion
- Membership management
- Executive Committee liaison
- Website development

#### Partnerships and finance

- Liaise with international/national organizations
- Promotion of society to attract funding
- Opportunities to attract funding

#### ICZ preparation and maintenance

- Manage delegation to ICZ
- Recruit papers for INZ from conference attendees

- Student prize management
- Flyer and agenda preparation

### 4 Future Work Directions

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The mission of the ISZS remains unchanged and the work of the Secretariat continues to reflect these long-standing goals. Under this framework (see section one) the Secretariat has identified seven key working areas:

- To provide guidance and support to the next ICZ congress host
- To expand membership and services
- To publish Integrative Zoology
- To maintain the ISZS website and to promote international zoological data networks
- To organize international symposia and workshops
- To coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on international programs for joint research, public education and for young zoologists
- To seek external funding to become financially independent

#### 4.1 Key work area: To provide guidance and support to the next congress host (XXI ICZ)

The ICZ are held every four years. During each ICZ, the ISZS will review achievements and issues in zoological research and recommend further developments and directions for zoological research. This will also identify and determine the priorities of the ISZS.

For Secretariat support of the ICZ, the Secretariat is to use different methods and instruments including financial support to mobilize ISZS members to attend the ICZ. It will work closely with the host country to ensure the ICZ are successful. It will help call for scientific papers and publish a special issue of *Integrative Zoology* for the ICZ. It will help produce meeting agendas, flyers, proposals and other necessary materials for the ICZ. It should also help in seeking the outside funds to support the ICZ.

**We want to increase individual membership by 20%, corporate membership by 40% and conduct targeted membership campaigns in Africa, South America and Central Asia**

#### **4.2 Key work area: To expand membership and service**

Members form the foundation of the ISZS. The Secretariat will make full use of all opportunities to expand ISZS membership, especially corporate members. The current geographic distribution of membership is uneven and clustered around North America and Europe. The Secretariat is now conducting targeted communications throughout Central Asia, Africa and South America in order to increase membership in these regions and ensure a more balanced and representative international society. The Secretariat's short-term goal is to increase corporate membership by 40%, individual membership by 20% and our geographic member base by 20%. Longer term, the Secretariat will work at having corporate and individual membership in 80% of countries around the world.

To increase the services provided to members, the Secretariat will operate as a clearing house of zoological information to members. The website, newsletter and journal rapidly provide members with the latest information on zoology. The Secretariat is planning to reconstruct the ISZS website, so that it can function as a platform for ISZS members to communicate online, exchange information and approach colleagues to collaborate on future research.

In addition, when the Secretariat secures sufficient funds, it will provide fellowships to those members who are recognized as providing outstanding service to the zoological community and the ISZS.

#### **4.3 Key work area: To publish *Integrative Zoology***

*Integrative Zoology* is the official journal of the ISZS. With a focus on zoology as an integrative discipline encompassing all aspects of animal life, the journal intends to present a cross-zoological picture of the many levels of zoological inquiry, both horizontally and vertically. The journal aims to represent and reunite various disciplines that look at animal life from different perspectives and provide the basis for a comprehensive



understanding of zoological phenomena on all levels of analysis.

*Integrative Zoology* is in its third year of publication – and is becoming an effective international instrument for scientists and researchers to demonstrate their achievements and work on zoological sciences. In order to make the journal more attractive to its readers around the world, the Secretariat and the Editorial Office will pay great attention to improving the quality of accepted articles.

The Secretariat and the Editorial Office are cohabited at the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science and staff often have shared duties between these two areas. This arrangement is of benefit to *Integrative Zoology*. The Secretariat and Editorial Office will continue to promote the journal to visitors of the IOZ, work with Wiley-Blackwell on marketing and manuscript quality and continue to improve the editorial processes and information management system of this young journal.

#### **4.4 Key work area: To expand the ISZS online environment**

The website [www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org) is the official online platform for the ISZS. Currently, while teeming with content and useful information, it is limited in its ability to effectively serve members.

Recently, the Secretariat had a meeting with the information technology support team of the IOZ. It has been agreed that they will assist the Secretariat to modify and reconstruct the website. Our vision is for the website to become a major online destination for researchers, potential donors and members. Using the results of the review currently underway, the Secretariat is planning on rolling out a new and improved online platform by the end of 2008. This new site will be kept up-to-date, contain news and photos, be a place of media exchange between members, have interactive member maps, discussion boards and forum and contain a virtual laboratory of zoological information.



Copyright: Charles Lam

#### **4.5 Key work area: To organize international symposia and workshops**

The year 2009 will be 200 years since the birth of Charles Darwin. To commemorate this great contributor to the natural sciences the ISZS is to organize an international symposium in Beijing. In addition, the Secretariat is to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium of Integrative Zoology in Beijing.

Evidence shows that international symposia and workshops are good opportunities for ISZS members and zoological scientists to share views, discuss research and share knowledge with each other. For example, after the 19<sup>th</sup> ICZ and two International Symposia of Integrated Zoology there has been a great improvement in mutual understanding between specialized zoological societies and there are more and more interdisciplinary applications of their scientific research achievements. These events also present opportunities for the Secretariat to promote membership and society services. For example, prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISIZ there were only four corporate members, compared to 29 following this gathering.

The Secretariat will continue to organize the International Symposium of Integrated Zoology each year when an ICZ is not scheduled. Given the success of previous symposia, the Secretariat will continue to seek funding and locations for future symposia.

#### **4.6 Key work area: To enhance the role of ISZS in international programs**

Joint scientific research is an important target of the ISZS. Within the ISZS this is achieved by the formation of working groups. The ISZS is currently accepting submission for new topics to be covered by new working groups. This function of the Secretariat will be actively promoted in the future. This will include assisting the formation of a working group, coordinating communications amongst members and coordinating final reports and scientific papers arising from the business of the working group.

**Global Climate Change is a significant issue for all organisms on Earth. The ISZS will launch an International Research Program on Global Change Biology. This program will span several countries and involve zoologists from around the world**





Copyright: Jason Cham

The ISZS will attempt to expand its research coordination role by sponsoring international research projects. The Secretariat will serve as the administration centre for such research projects, facilitating communications and providing a focal point for data and publication.

Climate change is a significant issue that will shape the very future of the society's subject matter – the animal species that inhabit our Earth. While the awareness of climate change and its impact on the globe is increasing, the understanding of its consequences on biology and especially zoology is still immature. Given this deficiency in our understanding of climate change and its impact on animal species the ISZS will launch its first ISZS International Research Program (ISZS IRP): *Biological Consequences of Global Climate Change* in 2009.

The primary goal of this program will be to understand the ecological consequences of global warming. Output will be to assess the impact and consequences on biodiversity, wildlife, endangered species, infectious disease, public health, agricultural pests, and the production of livestock and crops.

The Secretariat will establish a web-based international laboratory to be hosted on the society website. The ISZS Online International Laboratory (OIL) will unite laboratories and research groups working on climate change around the globe. Under the ISZS IRP, the international team will be collecting historical data, carrying out research and analysis, and producing policy papers and scientific manuscripts to inform the general and technical public. At an appropriate time and when financially viable, the program will establish various on-site monitoring hubs in key regions around the world.

The Secretariat has submitted the above ISZS IRP proposal to the Chinese Academy of Science whom have showed great interest in the program and have indicated a high likelihood of providing funds. To compliment this funding the Secretariat will locate additional sponsorship from other stake-holders. The first ISZS IRP will serve as a trial from which the Secretariat can then develop future international research programs.

#### **4.7 Key work area: Securing resources for financial autonomy**

Like any new professional society, the ISZS and its Secretariat have faced 'establishment difficulties', usually arising from an absence of an established infrastructure to deal with day-to-day issues of the society. However, the ISZS is fortunate that the IOZ, and The Bureau of International Collaboration (CAS) offered their generous support when the ISZS was established. The IOZ provided sufficient resources to establish a permanent office, staff and infrastructure for the ISZS Secretariat in Beijing and the BIC supplied the necessary funds for activities including two ISIZ organized by the ISZS Secretariat. To date the ISZS has spent a total of US\$374,000.

The ISZS has to become financially independent if it is to become sustainable with a secure future. To achieve this, the Secretariat will continue to lobby IOZ and the CAS for continued support. Additionally, the Secretariat has plans to approach other national and international institutions, foundations, scientific grants and enterprises for financial support. At an appropriate time, the Secretariat will establish an ISZS Foundation as a financial instrument to receive and provide supporting funds both to ISZS projects and its members.

**The Chinese Academy of Science and Institute of Zoology have been great supporters of ISZS. To compliment this assistance the ISZS must now look more broadly for funding opportunities**

## 5 Can the Secretariat Meet the Needs of the ISZS?

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### 5.1 Strengths of the Secretariat

The Secretariat has achieved a great deal in its first four years of operation and this momentum is a significant positive attribute. From 2004 to 2008 the Secretariat established the operational framework of the ISZS, created an internationally successful journal, constructed the ISZS website and organized several large international scientific meetings.

Presently, the ISZS has 35 corporate members (consisting of 20 000 members) and 259 individual member from 31 countries. This strong corporate base and widespread distribution will aid future expansion and development.

The BIC and IOZ have already committed to providing the Secretariat with the necessary office infrastructure and logistics until 2010.

The staffing arrangements of the Secretariat include 3 English-speaking staff with international experience. One staff member is from Australia and two are from China. The Secretariat also has a small internship program. Their fruitful performance shows that they are not only competent and capable, but also enthusiastic and energetic.

The Executive Committee has a positive relationship with the Secretariat and works closely with them. The executive Committee has supported the business of the Secretariat well and this healthy working relationship will continue to aid the society into the future.

### 5.2 Weaknesses of the Secretariat

A significant weakness is the short history of the society and its Secretariat. The society has a relatively small membership base, especially compared to those societies with a long history. The location of the Secretariat is China, a non-English speaking country. This does limit to

some extent the operations of the Secretariat within China, and it also impacts upon the perception of the Secretariat broadly. However, if there are sufficient funds, this weakness can be overcome by employing international staff from countries where English is a native language. Currently, the greatest weakness with the Secretariat is that it has an insufficient stable funding regime; this will impact deleteriously upon further expansion.

### 5.3 Opportunities for the Secretariat

The strengths and weaknesses outlined above present a vast array of exciting opportunities for the society and its Secretariat. First, as it currently has a small membership, there exists great potential for the Secretariat to develop its membership base. In addition, the ISZS four year history has demonstrated that the concept of 'integrative zoology' is becoming a major trend within the zoological sciences. The international landscape is one where more and more attention is being paid to the environment, species conservation and climate change – this political and social movement presents a fantastic opportunity for the society to meet research needs and facilitate communication between key stakeholders. The current location of the Secretariat within the Chinese Academy of Science has meant that it falls under the umbrella of an influential and well-respected scientific organization. Running costs in China are lower than in other countries, meaning that the same output is achieved as in other localities but at a lower cost to the ISZS.

### 5.4 Threats to the Secretariat meeting its objectives

When considering challenges facing the Secretariat, perhaps the best example can come from other zoological societies. The greatest threat is often from the inside rather than outside; for example, some zoologists doubting the concept of integrative zoology or a lack of faith by members and executives in the Secretariat's working capability and competence. Furthermore, the current separation of branches and

disciplines of zoology could also pose an internal threat to the ISZS and its Secretariat. Of further concern is the current already-crowded number of zoological societies attempting to operate around the world.

## 6 Conclusions

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Over the last four years, the ISZS and its Secretariat have made concrete and fruitful progress. The influence of the ISZS is also growing rapidly: in 2007, the ISZS President, John Buckeridge, was elected as the President of the IUBS, Vice President Jean-Marc Jallon, Vice President of the IUBS and Vice President Zhibin Zhang, an Executive Committee member of the IUBS.

The Secretariat, as the permanent executive body of the ISZS, is always dedicated to supporting the ISZS Executive Committee and other ISZS members in their work. Using the improved organizational structure of the Secretariat and working across our seven key areas of responsibility, we hope to facilitate the ISZS in the realization of its vision, fulfillment of its mission whilst at the same time playing an influential and proactive role in the zoological sciences globally.

**Executive Members of the  
ISZS are recognized leaders  
around the world**



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## **Attachment A – Executive Committee meeting records**

# **Minutes of the International Society of Zoological Sciences Committee Meeting**

Held at the XIX Annual Congress, Beijing, Room 4, BICC,  
1900 hours, August 25<sup>th</sup> 2004.

### **Present:**

International Society of Zoological Sciences Committee members Dr. J. Buckeridge, (NZ), Dr. E. Cooper (USA), Dr. J-M Jallon (France), Dr. R. Polymeni (Greece), Dr. M. Schmitt (Germany), Dr. D. Song (China), Dr. Z. Zhang (China) and Dr. Y. Xie (China, Secretary). In attendance for the first 30 minutes: Dr. D. Por (Israel) and Dr. N. Stenseth (Norway).

**The meeting was preceded by an open forum.**

☐ Dr. Stenseth gave an outline of a proposal for the ISZS to help co-ordinate a data-base of zoological knowledge. It was agreed that this could be a valuable contribution to biological science. The ISZS Committee is to invite Dr. Stenseth to develop an action plan to take this to the next step. This action plan should take the form of a detailed proposal that includes: background, methods of approach, expected results and financial considerations. A letter advising this action will be sent to Dr. Stenseth.

### **Action: J. Buckeridge**

☐ Dr. Por lamented the lack of systematic taxonomists in key fields. This was in part due to retirement of Senior Academics, with little incentive for new zoologists to undertake systematics. He asked that the ISZS be proactive in trying to reverse this trend. There was recognition of this by the Committee, and concern was voiced that the quality of zoological science could decline as a result. Dr. Por will provide ongoing suggestions to the Society.

### **Action: Committee**

#### **Formal Agenda Items (guests retired at this point):**

#### **1. Minutes of the XIX General Meeting**

**Received.**

#### **2. Election of Officers (E. Cooper)**

President: J. Buckeridge

Vice-President (Society): Z. Zhang

Vice-President (Congress): J-M Jallon

#### **Agreed with acclamation**

The retirement of Dr. Walter Bock was noted. His input will be acknowledged by a letter from the incoming committee.

### **Action: J. Buckeridge**

#### **3. Consideration of Statute (M. Schmitt)**

It was noted that the Statutes are provisional until the next General Meeting. The evolution of these will take place over the next 12 months.

### **Action: M. Schmitt**



#### **4. Setting of Dues**

These were set at 5€ per annum for individual membership. To minimize transaction costs, this is to be paid, in full, for the period between congresses. That is, a single payment of 20€ for the period 2004-2008. If corporate membership is sought, the annual fee is on the basis of numbers of members of the society. This is calculated at 1€ per member, and is paid annually.

Payment of dues will be as cash (in Beijing), bank draft, or VISA/Mastercard.

A separate bank account for the society will be established in Beijing. Dr. Buckeridge advised that the Society should anticipate an audit before congresses. Legal advice will be essential.

**Action: Z. Zhang**

#### **5. Legal Status of ISZS**

The Society needs to be registered in a country. The country in which the Secretariat is established is considered appropriate. Dr. Zhang indicated that this could be arranged through the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China Association for Science and Technology.

**Agreed**

**Action: Z. Zhibin**

#### **6. Election of Emeriti (J. Buckeridge)**

Discussion followed about the very significant contribution that Dr. Dov Por has made to both the Society (i.e. within the former International Congress of Zoology) and to the broad field of zoology. It was considered appropriate to recognize this contribution in a tangible manner. The title of **Emeritus Chair** was agreed by all, with a presentation to be made at the Farewell Banquet of the XIX IZC.

**Action: J Buckeridge**

#### **7. Update on Paris 2008 (J-M Jallon)**

The dates for the XX ISZS Congress are tentatively 26-29 August 2008 (Tuesday-Friday). This will not clash with the Olympics. Concern about a potential clash with the Entomological Congress was voiced and Dr. Schmitt will investigate and report back.

**Action: M Schmitt**

#### **International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature**

It was agreed to ask the IUBS (through Professor Hoshi, President off IUBS) to approach the ICZN to seek to re-establish the alliance between our Society (ISZS) and the Guardians of the Code.

**Action: J Buckeridge**

#### **9. Standardization of Hosting Application (E. Cooper)**

There is a need to standardize the application form for potential hosting institutions to present for consideration to host succeeding ISZS Congresses.

**Action: E. Cooper**

#### **10. Mission Statement**

This is to be developed in conjunction with any review of the current statute.

**Action: J. Buckeridge, M. Schmitt**

#### **11. Workshops (J-M Jallon)**

A proposal to provide a vehicle through which the Society could offer specialist workshops in zoological sciences was discussed. There was agreement that this should be investigated further.

**Action: J-M. Jallon**

#### **12. Proceedings of the XIX Congress**

These will be published in a special volume. There will be a cut-off date for submission of manuscripts (December 1<sup>st</sup> 2004). Anticipated publication date is October-November 2005.

**Action: R. Polymeni, D. Song**



### 13. Specialist “trends in zoology” publications

There was discussion about the potential to publish specialist volumes in zoological sciences. Potential publishers include Elsevier. All members are asked to consider this. Formal linkage could perhaps, be established with *Zootaxa* for systematic works.

**Action: M. Schmitt**

### 14. ISZS Logo

The design of a logo for the new society was debated. It was considered appropriate that this be developed over the next 12 months. A student competition? Members were asked to contemplate this issue.

**Action: Committee Members**

**The meeting closed at 2100 hours.**

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## Minutes of the International Society of Zoological Sciences Committee Meeting

**Held at the International Symposium of Integrative Zoology, Beijing, VIP room, Xiangshan Hotel,  
1:30pm, October 20th 2006.**

### **Present:**

International Society of Zoological Sciences Committee members: Dr J. Buckeridge (NZ), Dr. J-M Jallon (France), Dr. R. Polymeni (Greece), Dr. M. Schmitt (Germany), Dr. Z. Zhang (China), and Dr. Y. Xie (China, Secretary).

### **Formal Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Minutes from Last Meeting**

-We need to contact Dr. Stenseth and enquire about his progress on the action plan

**Action: Secretariate**

-The minutes from the last meeting are a true record of the that meeting.

**Moved: M. Schmitt  
Seconded: J-M Jallon  
Passed unanimously**

#### **2. Logo Designs**

-Of the logos we had to choose from, it was unanimously decided that logo A, after some alterations, would be adopted.

Changes to A recommended are:

-Set the logo in a yellow box background with no black border

-Change the lower case “i” to a capital I

-Add text to the black box under “szs.”

-Make the text in the black box bigger.

-Have two sample versions: one with the black box only under the “szs” and one with the black box under all four letters.

\*The logo must look good in black and white as well as colour.

\*We still reserve the right to change the logo.

\*Prof. Jallon wants the final version of the logo within a month (of this meeting).

**Moved: Z. Zhang, M. Schmitt  
Passed unanimously**

#### **3. Changes to Statutes**

-Two changes are to be made to the statutes. The word “sciences” is to be removed from the name

“International Congress of Zoological Sciences” in article 7.1. The term “Zoological” is to be changed to “zoology.”

**Moved: M. Schmitt, R. Polymeni**  
**Passed unanimously**

-In article 7.1, in regards to congressional meetings, the wording is to be changed from “every 4 years” to “approximately every 4 years.” “The previous four years” is to be changed to “the interregnum.”

-to improve cross referencing, the bullet point format in the statutes will be changed to numbers, e.g. 7.1.

**Moved: J. Buckeridge**  
**Passed unanimously**

-We discussed the addition of a footnote in the statutes that suggests we try to have regional balance in committee leadership.

**Action: J-M. Jallon**

#### **4. Membership Fee**

-It was determined that a membership fee be put in place. There will be an individual one year membership fee beginning in 2008, 10€ per person and 5€ per student.

**Moved: J. Buckeridge**  
**Passed unanimously**

-Organizations (institutions) would also pay a nominal annual fee but depending on the annual fee, it was likely that this would only provide the institution with one vote in the event of any voting. The amount for an institutional annual subscription was not confirmed. (perhaps 10€ ?)

**Action (for consideration): Committee Members**

#### **5. Voting: avoiding local influence**

-To avoid the effects of local influence, voting should be done via hand delivered envelopes or via email prior to the AGM. In most cases, the general assembly meeting would confirm the outcomes of the voting. Email was determined to be the most feasible method, but a formal decision was not made.

**Moved: J Buckeridge**  
**Passed unanimously**

#### **6. Determining the Locations of Future Congressional Meetings**

-The committee discussed voting on the locations of congressional meeting two meetings in advance. This would be done in order to give those holding the congress enough time to prepare and to plan for other events.

**Action: Committee Members**

-Committee members will select a short list of candidate-locations (with the possibility of only one selection) before voting on the locations and sent off, ICZN needs to confirm that ISZS is the hosting body.

**Action: Secretariat (J-M Jallon will also make informal contact).**

#### **7. Update on the Journal**

-ISZS cannot sell a paper version of Integrative Zoology due to the Chinese government not currently issuing ISBN numbers. We can still sell digital copies online. Because libraries are buying fewer and fewer hard copies of journals, it was determined that a lack of hard copies will not have a great affect on the journal's readership.

**Action: Y. Xie**

-To increase the number of subscriptions to the journal, the citation frequency for the journal must be high. All members should try to cite the journal in their own papers.

**Action: Committee**

#### **8. Voting and Voting Rights**

-Organizations will only have one vote. A footnote to this effect will be added to the statutes. We will also delete the line in paragraph two of the ISZS application form that reads, “If an organization becomes a

corporate member, all members in the organization will be members of ISZS.”

**Moved: J. Buckeridge**

**Passed unanimously**

- All members will have voting rights. Current members will have voting rights during the 20th congress if membership fees are paid by January 1st 2008. Voting (on the election of the new committee) must be done before the AGM. Nominations close before the AGM.

**Moved: J. Buckeridge**

**Passed unanimously**

**The meeting closed at 5:30pm.**

Next Meeting: Paris August, 2008, unless funding can facilitate an earlier meeting.

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## **Minutes**

### **The International Society of Zoological Sciences Executive Committee Meeting**

**Held at the Second International Symposium of Integrative Zoology**

Beijing, A501, Institute of Zoology  
1:30-4:00pm, December 10th 2007

In attendance: Dr J. Buckeridge, (President, Australia), Dr. J-M Jallon (France), Dr. R. Polymeni (Greece), Dr. M. Schmitt (Germany), Dr. Z. Zhang (China), Dr. E. Cooper (USA), Dr. Y. Xie (Executive Secretary)

Observer: Dr. W. Xiong (China, Secretariat).

Apologies: Dr Song Daxiong.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** (October 20<sup>th</sup> 2006):

These minutes were circulated, and endorsed with minor corrections.

Minutes to be circulated.

**Action:** Yan Xie

#### **1. Dr. Song Daxiong**

Dr. Song Daxiong was absent due to health problem. The Executive Committee asked that its sympathy be communicated to Dr. Song.

**Action:** Zhibin Zhang

#### **2. Corporate membership**

If a national society is a corporate member, its sub-societies may also be the corporate members. National, regional or sub-societies will be treated the same and can join ISZS separately. This will encourage countries without national societies. Professor Cooper will ask the American Society to become a corporate member.

**Action:** Edwin Cooper

It was agreed that letters should be written to societies who are not yet members

**Action:** Secretariat

### **3. Hosts for the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress of Zoology**

The Executive has been informally advised that the Brazilian Zoological Society wishes to host the 21<sup>st</sup> congress. This is not yet confirmed. If Brazil does not confirm this, the Japanese Zoological Society has offered to host the event. Professor Dov Por (Israel) is the champion of the Brazilian application. He has been contacted regarding this, but this needs to be pursued by the Executive, with confirmation required by the end of this month.

**Action:** Rosa Polymeni

### **4. Congress meetings**

Professor B.M. Arora from India may be able to provide useful advice regarding whether India could hold a congress in the future. He certainly indicated to Professor Buckeridge that money was not an issue for the Indian Zoological community.

**Action:** Secretariat

### **5. Encourage individual membership**

Members of an institution that holds Corporate Membership will automatically become members of the ISZS. Although it was agreed that this was not a problem for the Society, we should make this option clear during the XX<sup>th</sup> ICZ and our website.

**Action:** Jean-Marc Jallon

### **6. Distribution of a recent issue of *Integrative Zoology* at the Paris congress**

This should be shipped to Paris before the conference.

**Action:** Secretariat

### **7. Posters at the XX<sup>th</sup> ICZ**

Poster presenters often find it very difficult to get financial support for registration on the basis of poster presentation alone. However, posters contribute the essence of science well, and can be most useful for emerging researchers. It was agreed that the host committee should arrange a short time for the promotion of posters at the Congress.

**Action:** Jean-Marc Jallon

### **8. Funding support to participants to the XX<sup>th</sup> ICZ**

Support for countries in which scientists are clearly disadvantaged financially was discussed (there was an impassioned plea from the Bangladesh delegate). It was also noted that the ISZS does not have funds to undertake the level of support needed. The Congress host has indicated that it is exploring options, but is not confident that significant funding can be obtained.

**Action:** Jean-Marc Jallon/ISZS Secretariat

### **9. *Integrative Zoology***

Messrs Mark Robertson and Jensen Liu from Wiley-Blackwell joined the meeting to discuss *Integrative Zoology*. *IZ* has had “free access” for two years, with another free year in 2008. However there will be subscription charges from 2009. Current usage is low with only 8863 downloads this year. There will be a Library campaign over the next 12 months, in addition, marketing is required to attract wider subscription (e.g. at the Paris Congress). The first imperative is to get excellent papers in the journal, the second to improve citation for these articles.

**Action:** Secretariat, Jean-Marc Jallon and Executive Members

### **10. Impact factor of *Integrative Zoology***

We should apply later for ISI. Criteria to consider are publishing on time, and an active Editorial Board. As the journal is in new area – *Integrative Zoology*, we are providing an umbrella for other zoological societies. The ISZS was asked to organize special issues (e.g. on specific themes or regions). It was agreed to appoint subject editors to organize specific themes.

**Action:** Secretariat and Executive

## 11. ISZS Executive changes

Professors Buckeridge, Schmitt and Song have advised that they will resign from the ISZS Executive, effective August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Thus there will be 3 vacant positions. It was agreed that the position of Past President, be established, with this person being an *ex officio* member of the ISZS Executive.

Note: There should be a “balance” with respect to geography and discipline amongst the Executive. People from Africa, Asia and South America should be encouraged. The General Assembly will decide on the new Executive Members, although the new Executive will elect the president. Pre-selection (shortlisting) of candidates will be made by the current Executive on the basis of geography and discipline.

The Secretariat is to advise all members of the process, and to call for nominations, which in addition must be seconded by a current member of the Society. Nominations are to be accompanied by a *curriculum vitae* and a statement, of no more than 100 words, of how the nominee believes he/she can contribute to the Society. Nominations must be signed by the nominee.

Nominations for the Executive must be submitted to the Secretariat by 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008.

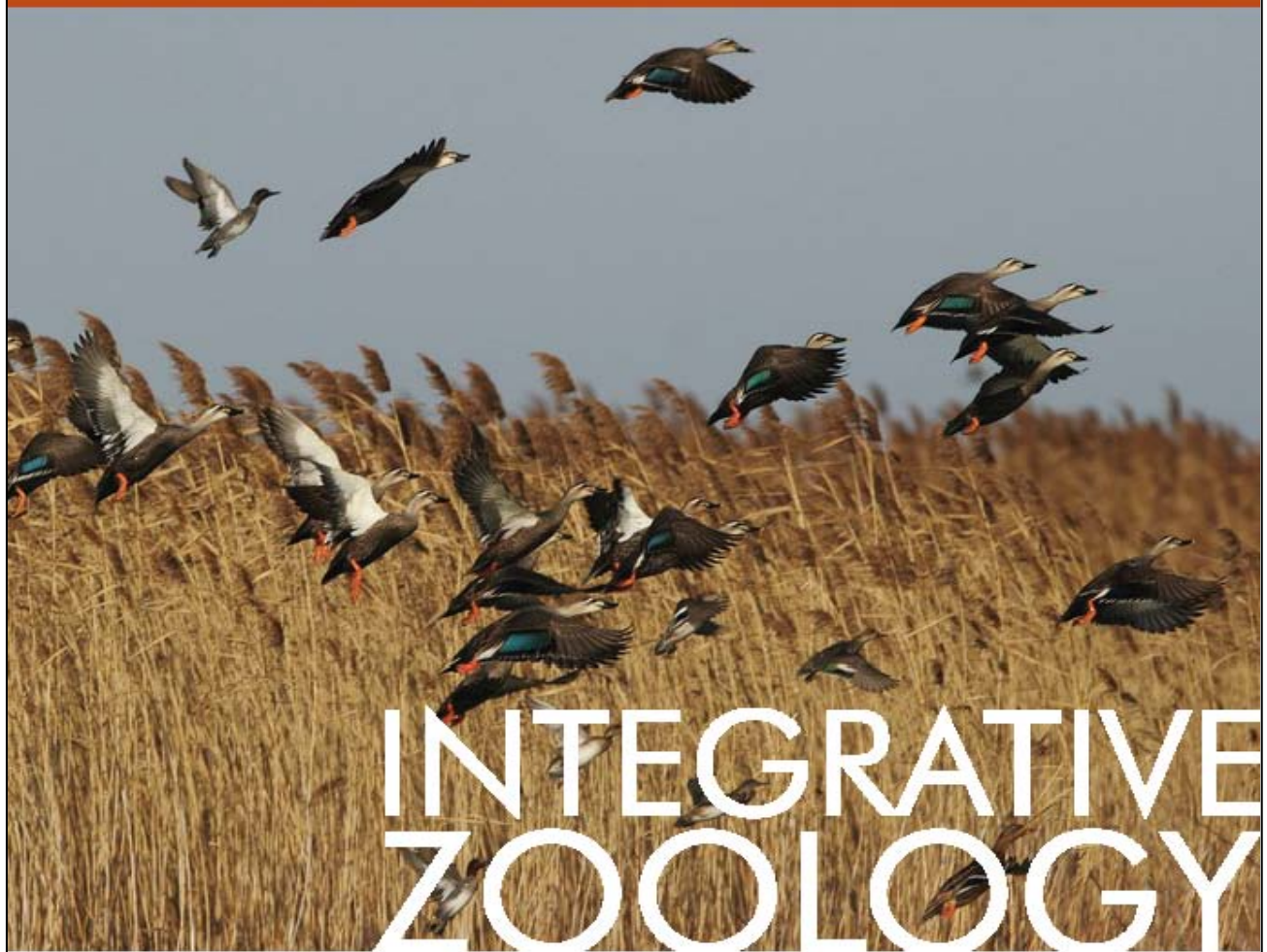
**Action:** Secretariat/Executive Members

The meeting closed at 1610 hours.

**Next meeting:** Paris, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2008.



The official journal of the International Society of Zoological Sciences



Evolution and systematics • Behavior and mating systems in mammals  
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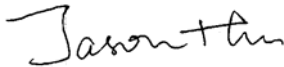


## Highlights from 2007

2007 was a successful second year for the *Integrative Zoology* and the journal has continued to make progress towards the top zoology journal in the region, as well as one of the top journals in its field internationally.

This annual report will provide you with a good understanding of the journal's current position, but I've selected a few highlights which I believe deserve special attention.

- A 153% increase in the number of full-text article downloads through Blackwell Synergy and other online hosts, compared with 3,939 downloads in 2006.  
The article *Feathered dinosaurs from China and the evolution of major avian characters* (Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2006) was the most downloaded in Blackwell Synergy during 2007.
- A 177% increase in the total number of readers registered for *Integrative Zoology*'s e-toc service with 471 in 2007, compared 170 in 2006.
- *Integrative Zoology* continued to be made freely available online for the entirety of its 2<sup>nd</sup> volume, in order to develop interest amongst readers and authors;
- The journal saw an extensive marketing programme in 2007 which saw the journal represented at conferences internationally. We also included the journal in a number of community sources published material promoting the journal.

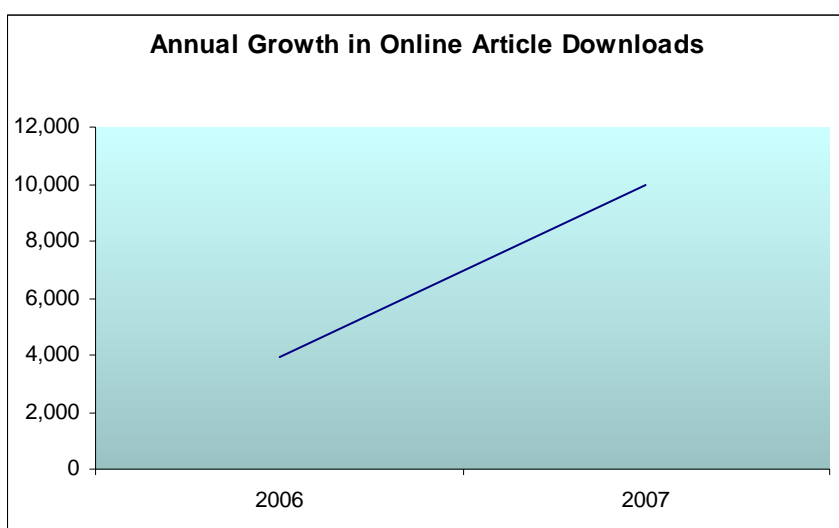


Jason Changjie HU  
Associate Journal Publishing Manager  
Wiley-Blackwell

### Readership and Usage

Growth in online readership of *Integrative Zoology* remains a key objective and is an important measure of the journal's success. Recent analysis undertaken by Publishers Communication Group, PCG)<sup>1</sup> revealed that 'usage statistics are contributing to more informed collection management, with 20% of librarians basing their cancellations on usage data'. This is why building readership is an important element of our marketing campaigns. By analysing usage data across the institutions accessing *Integrative Zoology*, we can identify key institutions with low usage and develop alternative methods of increasing readership at specific institutions.

In 2007, *Integrative Zoology* articles were downloaded 9,974 times through Blackwell Synergy and other online hosts. This compares with 3,939 in 2006; an increase of 153%. The following graph shows the number of times *Integrative Zoology* articles were downloaded online from 2006 to 2007.



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<sup>1</sup> The study by PCG was carried out amongst libraries in North and South America, Europe, Africa and Australia over the last four years and investigated over 22,000 lapsed subscriptions, representing over 60 publishers.

Publishers Communication Group, Inc., a division of Publishing Technology plc, is a full-service marketing and sales consulting firm with locations in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Oxford, England. PCG was established in 1989 as a resource for scholarly publishers to more effectively work with the global library market. PCG offers qualitative and quantitative marketing research, international multi-lingual telemarketing services, UK- and US-based customer services operations, sales representation, and strategic consulting.

## Top article

The article *Feathered dinosaurs from China and the evolution of major avian characters* (Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2006) was the most downloaded in Blackwell Synergy during 2007. For a list of the top 10 downloaded articles on Blackwell Synergy in 2007, see Appendix 3.

Access	Article title	Author	Issue	Page
834	Feathered dinosaurs from China and the evolution of major avian characters	<b>Xing XU</b> , Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China	Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2006	4
480	Systems or species? Approaches to conservation for the 21st century	<b>Jeffrey A. McNEELY</b> , IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Gland, Switzerland	Vol. 1, No. 2, June 2006	86
403	New challenges facing traditional nature reserves: Asian elephant ( <i>Elephas maximus</i> ) conservation in China	<b>Li ZHANG, Lichao MA, Limin FENG</b> Ministry of Education Key Laboratory for Biodiversity Science and Ecological Engineering, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China	Vol. 1, No. 4, December 2006	179
384	Human disturbance, climate and biodiversity determine biological invasion at a regional scale	<b>Zhibin ZHANG, Yan XIE, Yuming WU</b> State Key Laboratory of Integrated Management on Pest Insects and Rodents, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China	Vol. 1, No. 3, September 2006	130
355	The Jehol Biota (Lower Cretaceous, China): new discoveries and future prospects	<b>Paul M. BARRETT</b> , Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, London, UK <b>Jason M. HILTON</b> , School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK	Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2006	15
340	The actuality of Lamarck: towards the bicentenary of his Philosophic Zoologique	<b>Francis Dov POR</b> , Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel	Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2006	48
304	Characteristics of night-time sleeping places selected by golden monkeys ( <i>Rhinopithecus bieti</i> ) in the Samage Forest, Baima Snow Mountain Nature Reserve, China	Dayong LI, Cyril C. GRUETER, Baoping REN, Qihai ZHOU, Ming LI, Zhengsong PENG, <b>Fuwen WEI</b> * *Animal Ecology and Conservation Genetics Group, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Haidian, Beijing, China	Vol. 1, No. 4, December 2006	141
301	Diversity of the rodent communities in the Turan Desert region	<b>Valery M. NERONOV, Ludmila A. KHLIAP, Andrey A. WARSHAVSKY</b> A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia	Vol. 1, No. 4, December 2006	153
294	Resumption of ovary activity and normal estrus cycles in postpartum cows after inclusion of placenta-containing additives in the diet	<b>Tatyana F. VASILENKO</b> , Institute of Physiology, Komi Science Centre, Ural Division, Russian Academy of Sciences, Syktyvkar, Russia	Vol. 1, No. 2, June 2006	70
283	Comparative immunology	<b>Edwin L. COOPER</b> , Laboratory of Comparative Neuroimmunology, Department of Neurobiology, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA	Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2006	32

## Supplementary Materials

### 2007 Conference list

Complete list of conferences relevant to *Integrative Zoology*

Exhibition Name	Location	Month
Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Animal Science/ Japanese Society of Grassland Science	Sagamitara	March
Student Conference on Conservation Science - UK	Cambridge	March
CEPIEC Journal Roadshow	Peking	April
Central Veterinary Conference	BALTIMORE	April
Ames Bulk Stock	Ames	May
International Ecology Conference - Eco Summit 2007	Beijing	May
Zoological Society of London (ZSL) - A 2-day joint symposium of the Zoological Society of London and the Wildlife Conservation Society	London	May
American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine 2007 (ACVIM)	Seattle	June
6th European Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Congress (EVECCS)	Vienna	June
Evolution 2007 (SSE, SSB & ASN)	Christchurch	June
Society for Molecular Biology & Evolution (SMBE)	Halifax	June
Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting (SCB)	Port Elizabeth	July
American Dairy Science Association/American Society of Animal Science	SAN ANTONIO	July
Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS5)	Palermo	July
143rd American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference	Washington	July
Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation	Morelia	July
Royal Entomological Society Annual Meeting & Biennial Conference (RES)	Edinburgh	July
FSBI: Integrated biology of the establishment success & subsequent dispersal of non-native fishes	Exeter	July
Association of Field Ornithologists	Orono	July
Association of Avian Veterinarians Conference	Providence	August
Ecological Society of America/ Society for Ecological Restoration Joint Meeting	San Jose	August
American Ornithologists Union	Laramie	August
International Ethological Conference	Halifax	August
32nd World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress	Sydney	August
Southwest Veterinary Conference	Fort Worth	August
42nd European Marine Biology Symposium (EMBS)	Kiel	August
American Fisheries Society 137th Annual Meeting	San Francisco	September
British Ecological Society (BES) Annual Meeting	Glasgow	September
Ecological Society of Germany, Switzerland and Austria (GfÖ) Annual Conference	Marburg	September
British Equine Veterinary Association	Edinburgh	September
Central Veterinary Conference-Central	Kansas City	September
International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)	Helsinki	September
International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium	San Antonio	September
Wild West Veterinary Conference	Reno	October
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science	Charlotte	October
American College of Veterinary Surgeons	Chicago	October
American Association of Zoo Veterinarians	Knoxville	October
American College of Veterinary Pathologists	Savannah	November
American Association of Equine Practitioners	Orlando	December
Conference Research Workers in Animal Disease	Chicago	December

## Attachment C – Preliminary review of ISZS website

### Creating an international website for an international society [www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org)

#### Background

The official website of the International Society of Zoological Sciences was created in 2004 and is located at <http://www.globalzoology.org>.

A review of the performance of the website was conducted in June 2008 by the Secretariat, ISZS. This review consisted of collecting information from members using a questionnaire (delivered via email) and by examining websites of other high-performing societies around the world. Here we present the findings from both areas of investigation, and propose a new website platform and structure to be developed as soon as possible.

#### Results from member survey

A total of 26 completed surveys were returned to the Secretariat (114 members were sent questionnaires) from 14 countries (Figure 1). A copy of the questionnaire is at Attachment A. Ninety-five percent of respondents were aware of the website before being asked to comment on its performance. Equal numbers of respondents indicated they first learnt about the website from Integrative Zoology (40% of respondents) or by searching online (40% of respondents), while 13% learnt about it via a friend and 1% from other sources (E.g. International Conference on Rodent Biology and Management).

There was a difference in the types of content accessed by users of the website. Accessing or learning about Integrative Zoology was the most popular area visited by respondents, followed by the ICZ, membership forms and the ISZS list of member (See Figure 2).

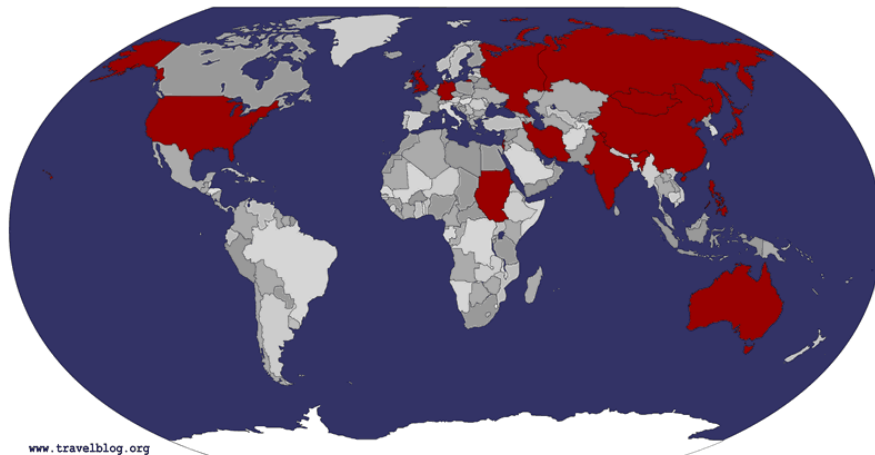


Figure 1. Areas from where completed surveys were returned.

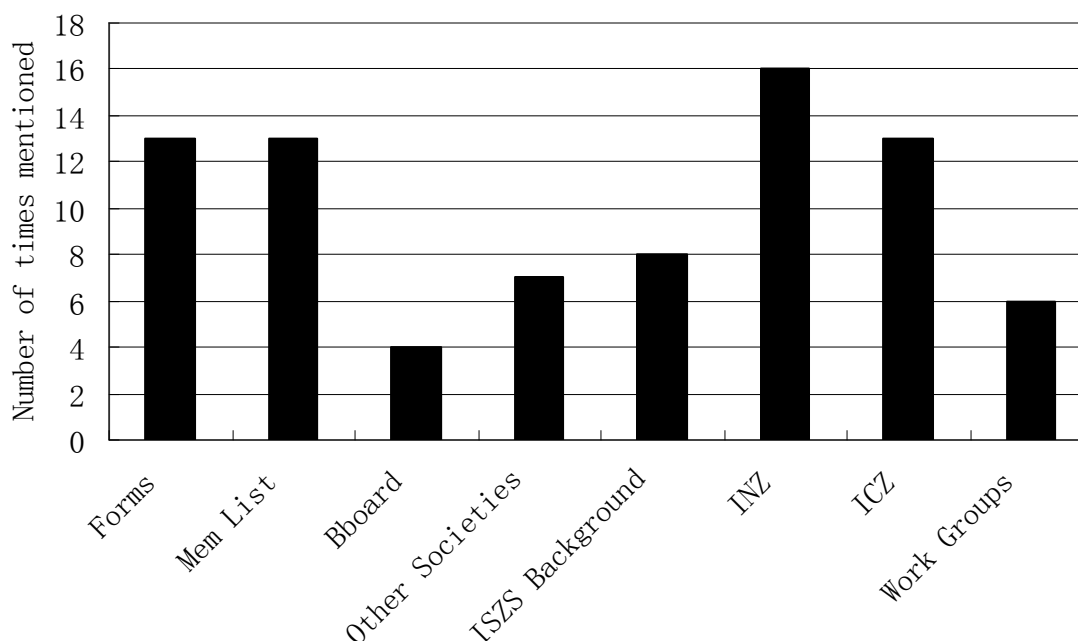


Figure 2. Areas of website visited by respondents. (BBoard = bulletin board)

When asked how frequently they visited the website, one respondent indicated they had been to it only once. Sixty-three percent of respondents accessed the website at least once a month and 31% accessed it weekly. When asked why they did not access the site more often, over half of respondents (56%) indicated it was because the website was not relevant or kept up-to-date; a further 42% of respondents told us they felt they had no need to visit the website more frequently than they already were.

Respondents were asked to evaluate their willingness to use some possible new features to be added to the website. The survey contained three new features: a member's corner where people could load photos, articles or news items; a zoology news section; and a fully-functional discussion board. The results are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Likely willingness of respondents to use certain features of a new globalzoology.org platform (Note: Values presented are total number of responses)

Feature	Would use	Might use	Would not use
Member's corner	15	7	1
Zoology news and events	17	6	0
Discussion board	15	7	1

A wide range of ideas were provided from respondents when asked what features they would like to see a new website contain. For example:

"Society should start some new awards for the young researchers and should think to provide a forum to directly interact with each other."



“Museum material sites and major photo features related to zoological sciences.

“Directory of brief curriculum vitae of individual members and other societies/organization given membership.”

“All the new events happening in zoological/biological/life sciences or environmental sectors would be appreciated.”

“Research and travel grants.

“Individual memberships, news letters forming online groups like job opportunities, fellowships available etc.

“Updated information on advanced zoology research and output”

“News about the Post Doctoral or cooperative funding.”

“List of congresses or symposium for the next 2 years - organized by any society linked to ISZS. Proposition from members to Msc, PhD or Post-Doc positions and propositions from members for international researches.”

Some respondents listed features that were already contained on the website, indicating that they could not find them or that the content was not obvious. For example:

“All the name and address of member of ISZS so that they can communicate with one another.”

“List of members of the executive committee”

Seventy percent of respondents indicated they would be willing to contribute material to a new website and would inform us of zoological news, events and articles of interest. All respondents (100%) indicated they would be interested in subscribing to an e-newsletter linked to the website that would be sent to them via email and contain news and other items of interest.

### **Conclusions from member survey**

The website is currently easy to use for members and the awareness of the website was high amongst respondents. Integrative Zoology was an important source for raising awareness of the website and the website is also an important avenue for people accessing the journal, this relationship is a positive one and shows how connected the journal and the society are. Irrelevance and out-of-date information are causing members to infrequently visit the site and there is a strong desire for zoological news content, funding information, meeting updates and an e-newsletter. There is also strong support for more member-inclusive features such as a discussion board, members corner and research opportunities. The challenge is to create an online environment where users feel they need to return, get value from and want to contribute



[www.globalzoology.org](http://www.globalzoology.org)

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