

JOURNAL OF CONSUMER SCIENCES

Editor-in-Chief Report

From Death's Door to a Rosy Future

Prof. Joseph Robert Roberson

17th SAAFECS–IFHE International Conference
Mount Amanzi, Hartbeespoort | 9–12 March 2026



"Science as Collaboration"

WHERE WE STARTED

The State of the Journal Before 2024



1 Article Published

Only one article was published in the year before the new editorship



Email-Based System

Submissions, reviews, and all communication managed via emails



No Online Platform

No integrated online editorial management system in place



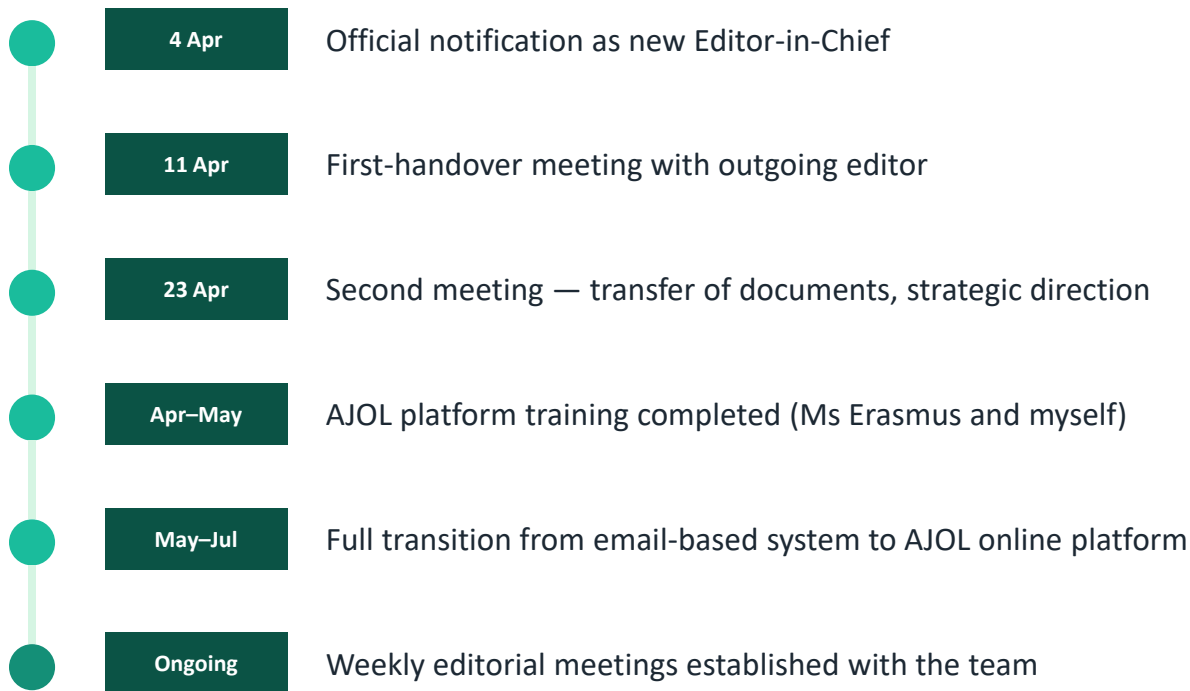
Limited Engagement

Minimal reviewer database and limited author outreach

The journal was at death's door — urgent intervention was needed

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

April – July 2024



2024: A BREAKTHROUGH YEAR

21

Articles
Published

14

Conference
Edition

7

Declined /
Archived



From 1 article to 21 — a **2,000% increase** in year one

Published across sub-fields: Food & Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles, Consumer Behaviour, Education, Hospitality

2025: SUSTAINED GROWTH

19

Articles
Published

9+

New Reviewers
Onboarded

4

Declined

3

Withdrawn by
Authors

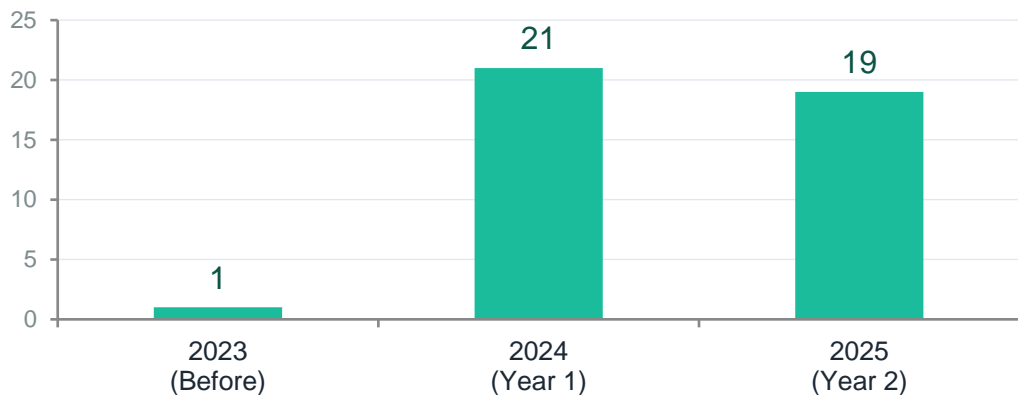
Prof. Adri du Toit welcomed as new Editorial Board member | Standing editorial meetings maintained

THE TWO-YEAR IMPACT



From **1** article to **40** articles in two years

21 published in 2024 + 19 published in 2025 = 40 total



885

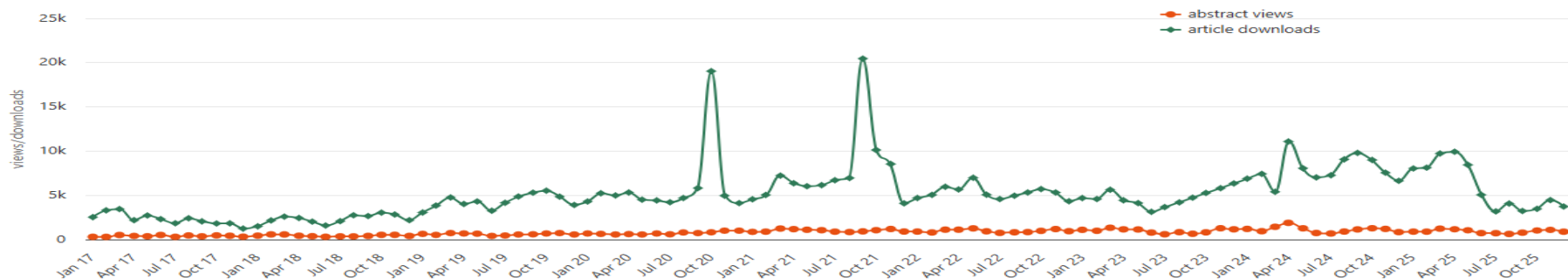
Abstract views (Dec 2025)

3,734

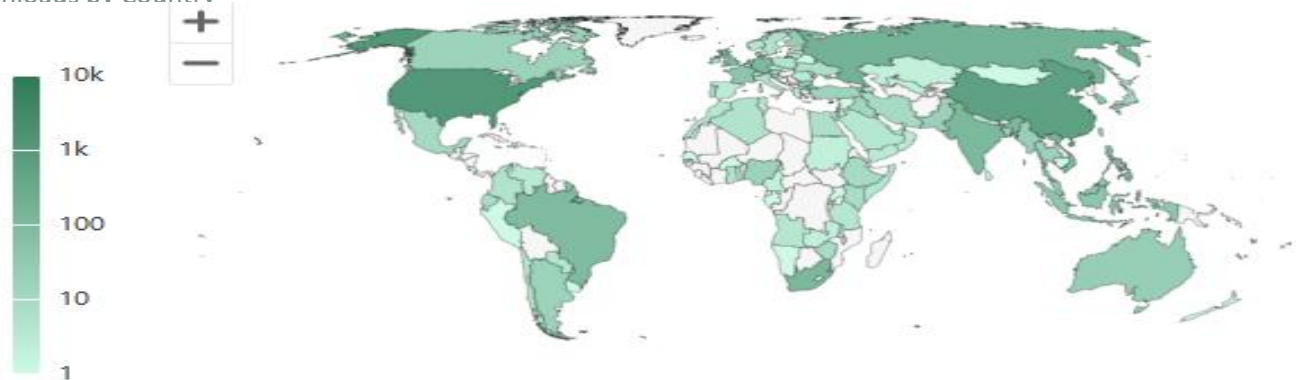
Downloads (Dec 2025)

READERSHIP & INTERNATIONAL REACH

Abstract Views & Article Downloads (Jan 2017 – Dec 2025)



Article Downloads by Country



Global readership supports our positioning as an international scholarly outlet

OPERATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

BEFORE (Pre-2024)

Email-based submissions

No structured peer review

1 article published (2023)

Limited reviewer pool

No editorial board growth

No indexing applications

Ad hoc meetings

No DOI consistency

AFTER (2024–2026)

AJOL online editorial platform

Full peer-review workflow on AJOL

40 articles published (2024–2025)

Expanded database (9+ new reviewers)

New board members recruited

Scopus application submitted

Standing weekly editorial meetings

DOI & metadata aligned with AJOL

A complete operational overhaul in under two years

LISTED ON WEB OF SCIENCE

Journal of Consumer Sciences | Status: Active



98.2%

Percentage Rank in Category

Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary — ranks in the top 1.8% of journals in this WoS category, an outstanding position.

7.2

Journal Impact Factor (JIF)

Measures average citations per article over 2 years. A JIF of 7.2 is exceptionally high for this field.

3.8

5-Year Impact Factor

Average citations per article over 5 years — shows sustained long-term scholarly influence.

Publisher: African Journals Online | Country: South Africa | Access: Subscription | WoS Core Status: Active

The JCS is now a Web of Science indexed journal with a remarkable Impact Factor



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Ms Trudie Erasmus

Technical / Production Editor

The backbone of our operations — layout management, corrections, publication sequencing, AJOL platform management, and unwavering dedication throughout the entire transition



Prof. Marike Venter de Villiers

Special Edition Editor

Leading the 16th SAAF ECS Conference Special Edition — 14 conference articles published, plus ongoing co-editorial work in 2025



Dr Mariette Strydom

Treasurer

Managing the journal's financial operations with diligence and ensuring transparent financial administration

Sincere thanks also to the SAAF ECS Exco for ongoing guidance and to all our dedicated peer reviewers.

THE FUTURE IS ROSY

From death's door to a thriving, internationally-read journal

1→40

Articles (2 yrs)

3,734

Downloads (Dec '25)

Global

Readership Reach

Thank You

Prof. Joseph Robert Roberson | Editor-in-Chief

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