This report was prepared by Brian M. Pollins, acting as the chair of the ISA Publications Committee (members include Rose McDermott, Shirin Rai, Brett Ashley Leeds, John Ravenhill, W. Andy Knight, Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Kristian Gleditsch, and Miroslav Nincic with ex-officios Janice Bially Mattern, Dan Nexon, Jef Huysmans, João Nogueira, Cooper Drury, Laura Neack, Renee Marlin-Bennett, Michael Colaresi, Gerald Schneider, Harvey Starr, Amitav Acharya, Paul Diehl, Tom Volgy, and Mark Boyer). The report was submitted January 16, 2015 for the 2015 Governing Council meeting in New Orleans.

Full Report

(Please note: the annual reports from each of ISA’s journals can be accessed at: http://www.isanet.org/Publications.aspx)

As is our practice, I will leave most detail regarding individual ISA journals and the Compendium Project to the individual reports made available to the Governing Council by the editorial teams from those publications. See ISA website for detailed copies and data. Here I will concentrate on overarching issues and highlights concerning ISA publications during 2014 as well as looking ahead at larger trends. Major points include the following:

- Circulation for our journals continues to rise as both memberships and library subscriptions (particularly outside North America) continue to increase, though not as dramatically as in recent years.
- Transition to our new publisher, Oxford University Press, continues smoothly and quickly. Exec Director and the Publications Committee Chair visited OUP North America this past October and discussed several matters concerning transition, production, marketing and innovation.
- The web presence of several of our journals rose importantly during 2014. Our publications are not only benefitting now by subscriptions, but from a rapidly rising number of downloads. Besides the financial benefit, this raises the visibility of our authors, our journals, and the Association itself.
- The Impact Scores and Rankings of our six journals, in the main, remain healthy. These ISI scores vary from year-to-year for all journals. It is best to watch the five-year average for a given journal, so we will need to be patient in tracking most of ours since they have only been recently certified in the ISI system.
- The Committee conducted a successful search for a new editorial home for Foreign Policy Analysis. The five year term for the current team led by Cooper Drury at the University of Missouri will end in December 2015, and the Committee received two top-quality proposals to succeed the current team. The Publications Committee gave approval to both proposals, but were unanimous in their ranking recommendation, which is provided in a separate memorandum.
- Our newest publication, entitled the Journal of Global Security Studies made significant progress towards beginning its operation. Its Editorial Team and Editorial Board are in place, they are already working on the inaugural issue with our incoming Publisher (Oxford University Press) and they have just begun accepting manuscripts for review. Volume 1, no.1 will be in ISA members hands next January.
Looking across all six journal reports from the editorial teams I underscore the following

Submission Rates
ISA’s journals processed over 1500 new submissions last year, setting another all-time record. (This does not count nearly 100 individual book reviews in ISR.) Each of our journals maintains an annual submission rate sufficient to expect a long-term, quality pool of publishable manuscripts.

Turnaround Time
Our target is 75 calendar days. Three journals are 10 to 20 days faster than this target. Two others meet this target, and the sixth (IPS) is very close. All six are trending to shorter times, which makes our journals attractive to authors.

Female Participation in ISA Publications
Data gathering on this question continues, and we have now accumulated enough data to see some simple patterns emerging. There is more data for some journals than others, due to their different ages (I refer you to the individual reports on the ISA website.) There is also variation across our journals (reasons unknown) regarding the willingness of reviewers (in particular) to register their sex. Relevant ISA Committee(s) may wish to examine these data, now readily found in our individual journal reports found on the ISA Web site. In short, the reader will find that women comprise 25%-33% of those submitting manuscripts and a nearly identical percentage accepted for publication. The percentage of women in our reviewer pools is also in the same 25%-33% range (though only 3 of our journals report data here). It is also noteworthy that the percentage of women who decline to review when asked is virtually identical to men.

Non-North American Participation in ISA Publications
We also see continuing increases in participation by scholars from outside the U.S.A. and Canada in our journals. International Political Sociology continues to lead the way when it comes to non-North American manuscript submissions, but all of our journals are experiencing some increase in international participation. (It is not significant for International Interactions.)

In Sum
The state of ISA Publications appears to be very solid, and trending in desirable directions in several ways. Journal management is very sound, our readership and the number of scholars seeking to publish with us is rising. We continue to be increasingly diverse in both gender and geographic terms, though there is room for improvement. Our current publisher, Wiley & Sons, continues to serve us with great professionalism, while keeping us on the cutting edge of electronic publishing and web accessibility. The Compendium Project is steadily becoming “normalized” as it was originally envisioned, and we hope to make its operation smoother still in the year to come.