



2022: Annual Report to the CAG/ACG on *Canadian Geographies / Les Géographies canadiennes*

Overview

This is my 12th and final year editing *Canadian Geographies / Les Géographies canadiennes*. Most significantly this is the year that we changed our journal name to one that is not masculine in its French language term, a change that was long overdue. During the 12 years I have been the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, the publishing industry and the world more generally have shifted seismically. Open Access publishing, online-only reading, impact factors, and many other influences have affected our journal—and all journals. Our goal has always been to respond with agility and openness to changes and challenges. At the present, the journal is in a strong position. Our editorial team, supported by the Canadian Association of Geographers, is keen to continue to attract authors, enhance our content, and widely disseminate our journal. This report summarizes our position in the industry and in the discipline of geography. It highlights recent changes to the journal name and design. It also focuses on persistent challenges, as well as emerging trends. Additionally, this report summarizes and explains a number of metrics that describe the situation at *Canadian Geographies / Les Géographies canadiennes* at the end of 2022.

Table of Contents

Overview.....	1
Emphasis in 2022.....	2
Manuscript Submissions.....	5
Dispositions.....	7
Reviewing and time-to-decision	8
Bibliometrics and rankings	9
Institutional subscriptions and access to <i>CG-LGC</i> worldwide.....	10
Altmetrics and the use of media exposure to measure relevance	13
Final word	13
References	14



Emphasis in 2022

We are grateful to our President Nathalie Gravel, as well as the Feminism and Geography Special Interest Group of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), for bringing to our attention that the French language version of the journal name (*Le Géographe canadien*) was masculine. Professor Gravel worked in conjunction with our French language editor, Professor Martin Simard, to find a name that a) is as close to the original name as possible; b) is gender neutral; and c) reflects the many strands of Canadian Geography.

We are happy to announce that as of April 2023, our journal name is: *Canadian Geographies / Les Géographies canadiennes (CG-LGC)*. A major concern was that we did not want to affect our journal indexing, citation tracking, and impact factor through an abrupt name change. Our Wiley team has successfully navigated these difficult waters. We are currently working on a new logo for the journal that reflects the name changes and also incorporates aspects of the original CAG logo. You will note that we are using a version of the CAG logo as a placeholder in this report, as the transition to the new name and the new logo is still in progress.

During the past year, Wiley, our publisher, has been rolling out a 'New Journal Design' (NJD) among all of its (500+) journals across all disciplines. The purpose of the NJD is to enhance reading on digital devices and on screens in general, and to make it more efficient to proceed from an 'accept' decision to EarlyView online publication. This change will not, for the most part affect our authors, although the authors whose papers were first into production with the new templates did have to bear with us as a few wrinkles were ironed out! The one notable difference is the change in our reference style. After years of using a bespoke reference style, we are now using a modified version of APA 7. We are hopeful that this shift will make our authors' formatting easier and more streamlined. The look of articles, both online and in pdf format, has changed in a number of ways including a different font, treatment of authors lists, etc. Please see Figure one below. We phased in this change during the autumn of 2022 and early 2023, and are now fully transitioned to the new design.



Figure one: New Journal Design template for research articles.

One of the biggest challenges over my tenure as editor has been Open Access publishing. There are so many positive aspects to Open Aspects papers, but there is also a big financial disincentive for authors. We know that papers published as Open Access receive three times more downloads and almost double the citations. However, as a society journal that supports the CAG, it is important that we continue to offer traditional publication. We are trying to balance this while promoting Open Access to authors. In 2022, we published 12 Open Access papers, up 50% from the 8 we published in 2021. We are also highlighting two papers every month, and Wiley makes those papers “free to read” online for 4 weeks.

Despite the end of the pandemic, the increase in challenges securing reviewers that we experienced during 2020 continues. We still to have to ask high numbers of reviewers before we secure the minimum of two, and the number of reviewers who return their review late, or default altogether remains higher than we’d like.

One of our key goals is to increase the number of manuscripts we publish annually. Overall, our submission numbers slightly decreased from 2021 but they are above those of 2020. This is positive news and is doubly welcome as generally submission rates have been trending down across many journals. We are keen to continue this trend.



We continue to broaden the appeal and accessibility of our journal to French language readers. To that end, our French editor, Martin Simard, is leading a special section, and we have a bilingual special section in progress with a group of guest editors. Martin also graciously undertook the important task of translating some of our key author tools (Style Guide, Author Guidelines) into French. These have now been uploaded and are available to all French authors. In 2023, Martin will work with Ellen, our editorial assistant, to create a new set of French decision templates for use in ScholarOne.

We have found that special sections have worked well, both for the journal and for the authors who contribute. There is an efficiency and focus to the submission-review-production process, it exposes new authors and reviewers to the journal, and enables *CG-LGC* to provide current content on key issues of the day. In 2022, we ran two special sections in the first issue of the year. We encourage Canadian (and international) geographers to submit ideas for special sections. This is an opportunity to collate papers that generate conversations and a range of ideas related to a specific topic. Special section papers are available to read, distribute, and cite as soon as they are posted to Wiley's EarlyView.

I want to highlight that 4/10 of our top viewed papers in 2022 were concerned with Indigenous issues. It has been my goal since assuming the editorship in 2011 to emphasize that Canada occupies Indigenous territories whose peoples the journal wants provide a voice for.

Finally, 2022 was the year we welcomed Nalini Mohabir as book review editor. Dr. Mohabir is at Concordia University and happy to receive suggestions for book reviews.



Manuscript Submissions

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
English manuscripts	66	53	39	63	69	61	68	68	40	71	54
French manuscripts	9	2	5	1	8	5	6	3	5	6	12
TOTAL	75	55	44	64	75	66	74	71	46	77	66

Table one: Original manuscript submissions sent to peer review, 2012–2022. The count for 2022 includes a new formal article category, “Introduction.” While not peer reviewed, these articles are stand-alone in-depth introductions to special sections. Note that our submissions have decreased from the previous year: 2021 was marked by a high number of submissions for the special sections that were ultimately published in 2022.

The submission count for 2022 included 66 original manuscripts, not including book reviews. In this count were 3 Introduction articles for special sections. Two articles were withdrawn by their authors, so the total number of 2022 submissions that were processed is 64. Not included in this count was the lone obituary submitted in 2022, honouring Cole Harris. We are keen to increase submissions in 2023 and beyond, but acknowledge that there is a plethora of journals from which authors can choose.

2022 was a strong year in terms of special sections. We dedicated the first issue of the year to two critical contributions. One special section was guest edited by Josh Lepawsky. Entitled “Geographies of the digital,” it brought “together conversations happening in geography with similar ones going on in fields such as digital arts, communication and media studies, information studies, environmental humanities, and environmental history, about how digital technologies—broadly defined—are inherently and materially tied to people, places, and things that are ubiquitously, but unevenly, distributed on and off Earth. The conversations examine how those distributions come to be, how they matter, for whom, where, when, and under what condition.” (Lepawsky, 2022).

The other special section, one of our largest ever, was led by Valorie Crooks, Jessica Finlay, and Michael Widener. This section, “The changing geographies of aging,” featured the voices of multiple authors in 10 articles and 2 viewpoints, covering “three themes that crosscut the contributions to this collection: (1) aging involving movement and mobility; (2) aging with increasing lifespans and expanding geographies; and (3) aging through temporal and spatial variability” (Crooks, et al. 2022).

There were 16 book review submissions in 2022. While an increase over 2021, this still marks a drop from previous years, and likely reflects, in part, a year of transition in our book review editor. To date, however, in 2023 we have already received 13 book review submissions and anticipate this year’s counts to be more usual.

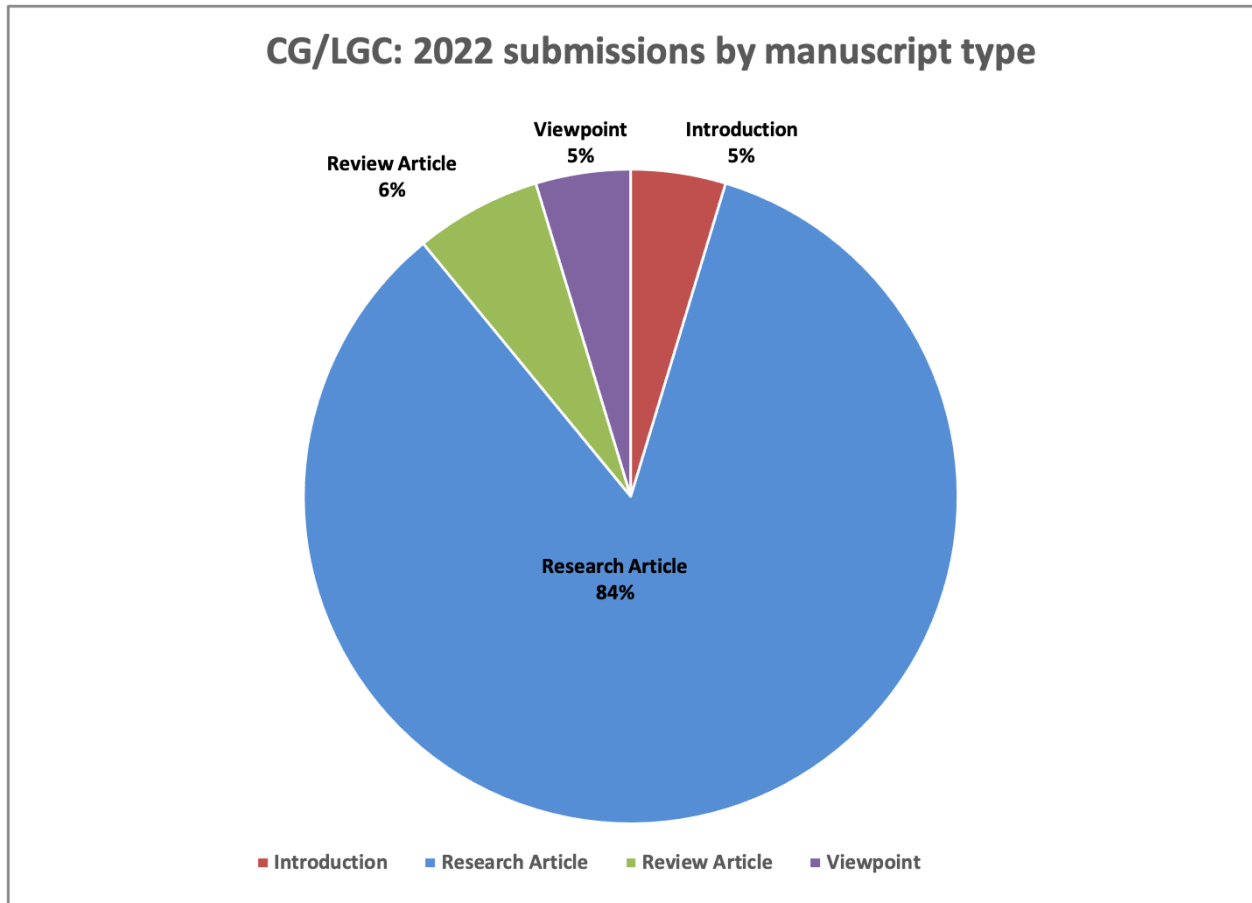


Figure two: Original submissions, by type in 2022. Research papers continue to be the primary manuscript type submitted to our journal.



Dispositions

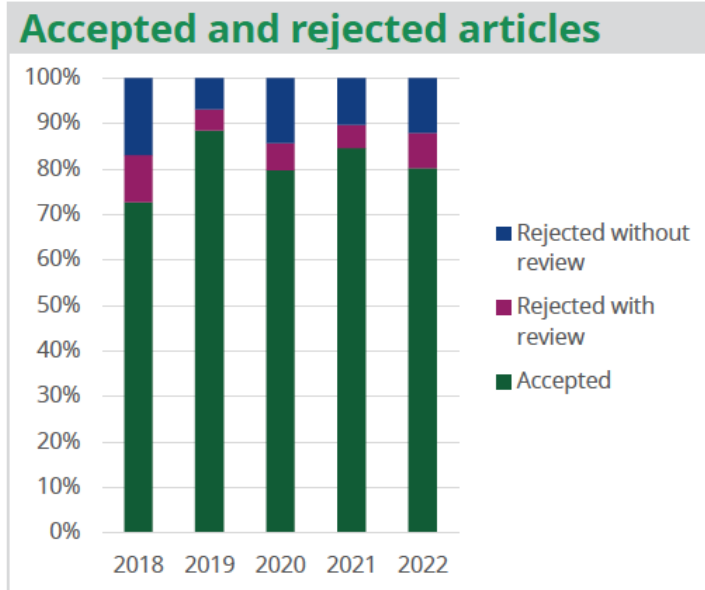


Figure three: Manuscript dispositions in 2022. We rejected slightly more papers without review than in the previous three years. Note book reviews are included in this histogram; they are not included in most other submission metrics.

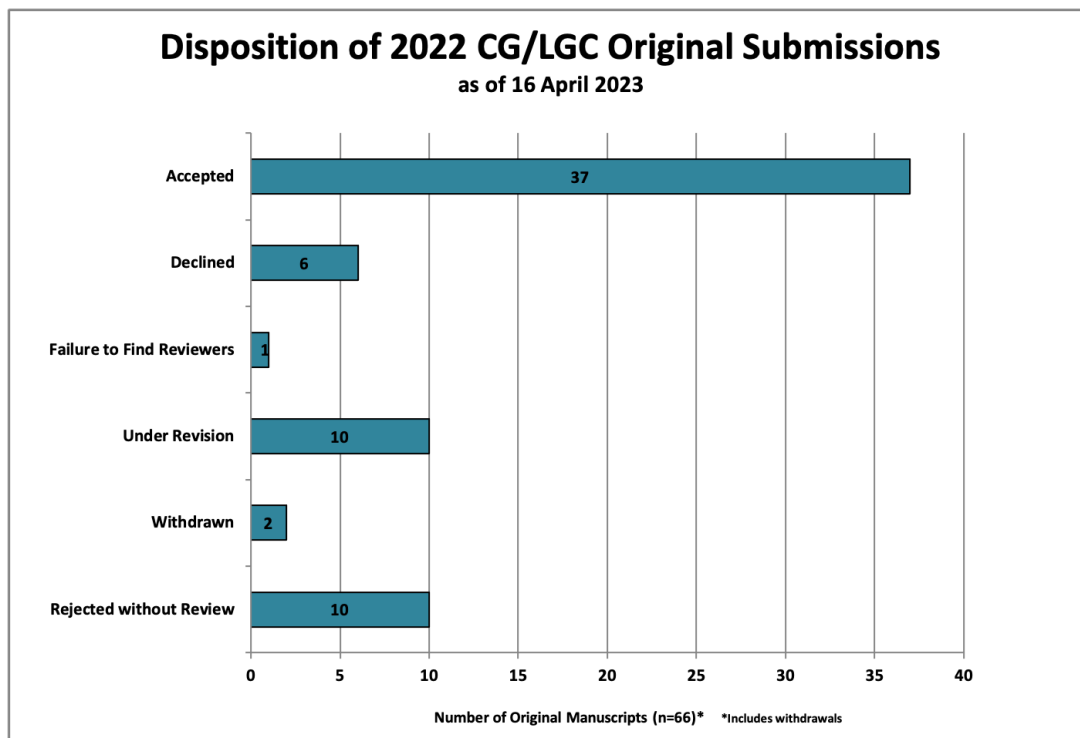


Figure four: Disposition of original manuscripts in 2022.

Our acceptance rate, to date, for 2022 submissions that have received a final decision is roughly 65%, almost identical to that in 2021. This continues to reflect that effect of special sections, which include manuscripts that have been invited. While some special section submissions are declined, because of pre-screening, the majority of these submissions make it through to publication. There has been a marked increase in the percentage of manuscripts that were desk rejects; these were mostly international submissions of papers that were often not relevant to the discipline of geography, let alone the Canadian context.

Reviewing and time-to-decision

2022 proved a slightly easier year in terms of recruiting reviewers, compared to 2020 and 2021. We made 294 review requests in 2022 and secured 134 reviews in total. Given ongoing challenges securing a full complement of 3 reviewers, we continued our practice of using 2 reviewers in cases where the alternative would be to desk reject that paper. Our biggest challenge, across all manuscripts, was review lateness and a slightly higher than usual incidence of complete default.

As editor, one of my goals is to continuously work to decrease the time from author submission to decision. 2022 generally saw a positive trend with some exceptions. In 2022, our time from submission to initial decision averaged 60 days compared to 66 days in 2021. Our time to final decision however increased slightly to 144 days from 132 days in 2021. Our time from submission to first decision has dropped markedly over the past five years as we strive to compete with other journals for a fast turn-around.

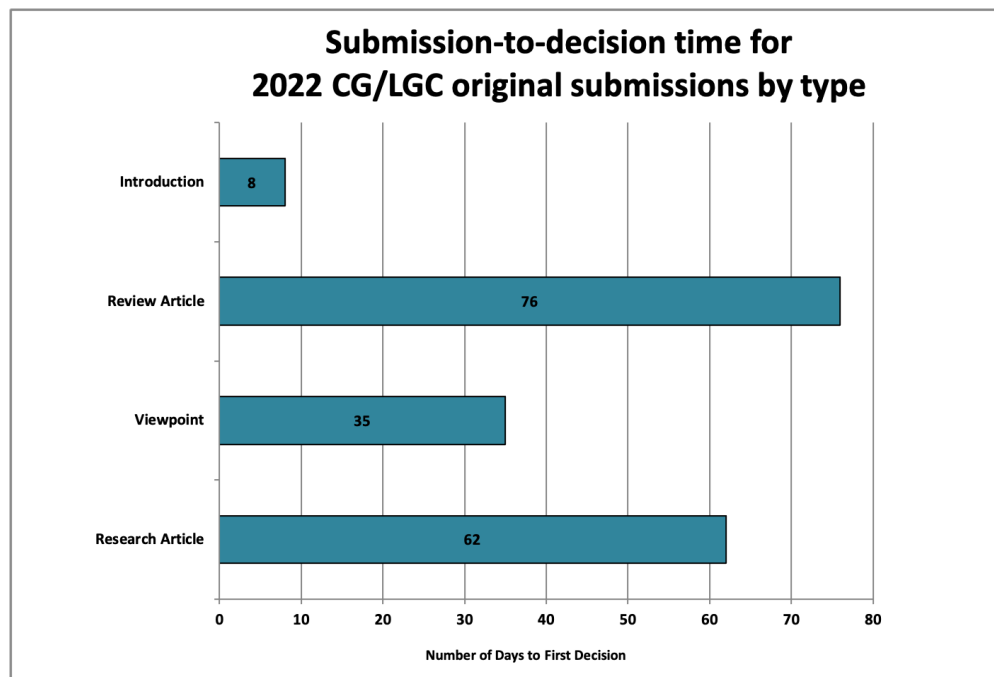


Figure five: Days from first submission to decision for 2022 submissions, based on paper type.



Bibliometrics and rankings

ISI impact factors and rankings are reported in late June for the preceding year. The *CG-LGC* impact factor for 2021 was calculated as a quotient in the following way:

$$\frac{\text{Number of citations in 2021 to } CG-LGC \text{ articles published in 2020 and 2021}}{\text{Number of source items published in 2020 and 2021}}$$

Our most recent Impact Factor for 2021 is excellent at 1.482. In 2020, our impact factor was 1.5 – which was a 50% improvement over the 2019 impact factor at 1.032. Both are a considerable improvement over low point in 2002 and our more recent trough in 2015 and 2016, when the impact factor dropped to 0.88 and 0.89 respectively. Indeed, we are at new (higher) plateau.

It is ironic that many major publishers are discounting impact factors going forward. The reasons for this are many but, in a nutshell, it is a response to an over-emphasis on impact factors on choice of publication venues by authors. All major publishers have signed onto DORA (<https://sfdora.org/read/>), a declaration which announces the initiative to reduce scholarly and institutional emphasis on impact factors. The reasons include the fact that a journal may have a high impact factor based on a very small slice of its published papers; every domain has a different norm for impact factors; editors are able to manipulate impact factors (I was unaware of this); and the data used to calculate them are not widely available or shared publicly. Overall, the de-emphasis on impact factors is a very positive turn for *CG-LGC*. We are a national, society-based journal that emphasizes Canadian content and relevance as well as being dedicated to highlighting papers that deal with Indigenous issues. We are not fundamentally a competitive journal.

ISI Rankings are published by Thomson-Reuters as Journal Citation Reports, a part of the Web of Science.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ISI Impact Factor	0.561	1.263	1.172	1.179	0.878	0.896	1.477	1.141	1.032	1.5	1.482

Table two: Journal Impact Factors from 2011 to 2021. The journal impact factor for 2021 is close to the highest we have ever received (2020).



Institutional subscriptions and access to *CG-LGC* worldwide

I frequently report increasing downloads year over year. While downloads for 2022 remained high, they are slightly lower than 2021. This is to be expected after 2021 when the downloads for *CG-LGC* increased 41%. That rate of increase is unsustainable. At present, our downloads for the journal are still historically high.

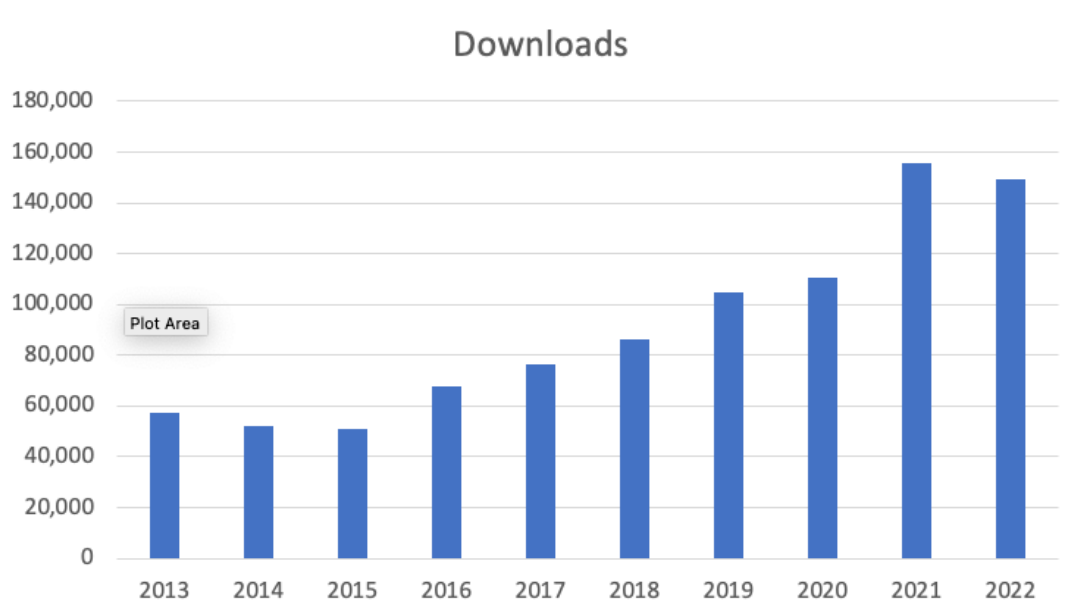


Figure six: The increase in downloads over the past 10 years. The journal is attracting downloads at a high rate, although the 2022 downloads are slightly under those of 2021.

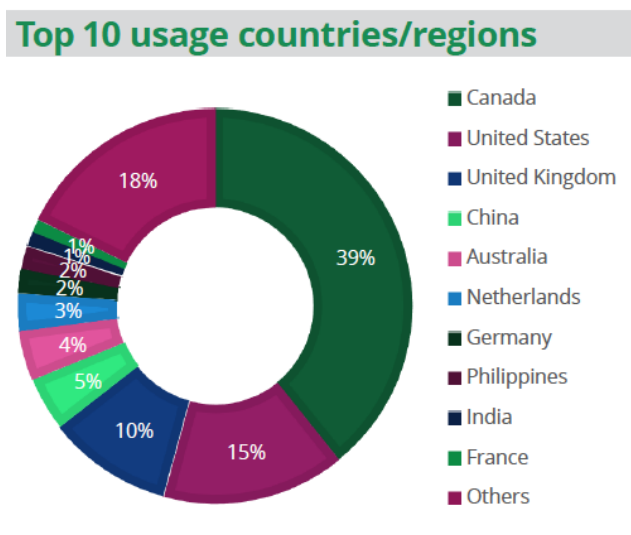


Figure seven: The top ten countries where views of our papers were coming from in 2022. Note that views and downloads from China are becoming more important.



It is not a surprise to see that Canadians are the chief source of article submissions as well as downloads.

The ten most downloaded papers in 2022 (Table three) are from a surprising range of years past, again demonstrating our papers have a much longer life measured by either two-year or five-year impact factors.

Rank	Author(s)	Article Title	Year	Volume	Issue	Full Text Downloads
1	Coletto, D et al.	Street vendors in Lima in the time of COVID-19: Guilty or oppressed?	2021	65	4	4,053
2	Richmond, C et al.	Supporting food security for Indigenous families through the restoration of Indigenous foodways	2021	65	1	2,267
3	Ding, R Y Williams, A M	Places of paid work and unpaid work: Caregiving and work-from-home during COVID-19	2022	66	1	2,166
4	Hoover, K C et al.	Surveillance, trust, and policing at music festivals	2021	66	2	1,736
5	van der Werf, P et al.	Food for naught: Using the theory of planned behaviour to better understand household food wasting behaviour	2019	63	3	1,637
6	Bowra, A et al.	Indigenous learning on Turtle Island: A review of the literature on land-based learning	2020	65	2	1,592
7	Daigle, M	Awawanenitakik: The spatial politics of recognition and relational geographies of Indigenous self-determination	2016	60	2	1,542
8	Lepawsky, J McNabb, C	Mapping international flows of electronic waste	2009	54	2	1,364
9	Cockayne, D	The feminist economic geographies of working from home and “digital by default” in Canada before, during, and after COVID-19	2021	65	4	1,304
10	Castleden, H Sloan Morgan, V Lamb, C	“I spent the first year drinking tea”: Exploring Canadian university researchers’ perspectives on community-based participatory research involving Indigenous peoples	2012	56	2	1,265

Table three: The ten most downloaded papers in 2022. Many of our top downloaded papers are Open Access – which significantly extends their reach globally.



While downloads are important to the publisher and point to interest in the material published by *CG-LGC*, citations are the basis for the calculation of impact factors. In Table four below, you see the top cited papers in 2022. Like the downloaded papers, they come from a range of years. These data consolidate our experience that the five-year impact factor is of greater relevance to *CG-LGC* than the two-year impact factor.

Author(s)	Article Title	Year	2-Year Citations	Total Citations	FWCI
O , N et al.	Public engagement in smart city development: Lessons from communities in Canada's Smart City Challenge	2020	11	11	2.84
Liu, D et al.	Analyzing disparities in transit-based healthcare accessibility in the Chicago Metropolitan Area	2021	8	8	3.39
Richmond, C et al.	Supporting food security for Indigenous families through the restoration of Indigenous foodways	2021	7	7	2.71
Youdelis, M et al.	"Wilderness" revisited: Is Canadian park management moving beyond the "wilderness" ethic?	2020	7	7	1.74
Leszczynski, A Kong, V	Gentrification and the an/aesthetics of digital spatial capital in Canadian "platform cities"	2021	6	6	2.03
Levenda, A M et al.	Rethinking public participation in the smart city	2020	6	6	3.00
Cockayne, D	The feminist economic geographies of working from home and "digital by default" in Canada before, during, and after COVID-19	2021	5	5	1.52
Aldred, T L et al.	Mining sick: Creatively unsettling normative narratives about industry, environment, extraction, and the health geographies of rural, remote, northern, and Indigenous communities in British Columbia	2020	5	5	1.42
Barr, S L et al.	Assessing climate change adaptation progress in Canada's protected areas	2020	4	4	1.26
Kaufman, D	Canadian homeless mobilities: Tracing the inter-regional movements of At Home/Chez Soi participants	2020	4	4	0.79

Table four. Top cited papers in 2022.



Altmetrics and the use of media exposure to measure relevance

Large publishing companies have started keeping track of which articles get media and social media exposure. This is another way to measure relevance especially outside of the academic community. A number of papers published by *CG-LGC* have attracted such exposure as illustrated in Table five below. Clearly broadcasting newly published papers (and sections) on social media will increase our Altmetric scores. Interestingly 87% of our Altmetric mentions were via Twitter.

Article title	Highest Altmetric Attention Score	All mentions	Mentions Twitter	Mentions from news & blogs	Mentions from policy documents & Patents
"Wilderness" revisited: Is Canadian park management moving beyond the "wilderness" ethic?	90	32	21	11	0
The concept of a tourist area cycle of evolution: Implications for management of resources	80	50	40	5	5
Quantifying the prevalence of energy poverty across Canada: Estimating domestic energy burden using an expenditures approach	80	21	12	9	0
Winters too warm to skate? Citizen-science reported variability in availability of outdoor skating in Canada	63	20	12	8	0
Reconstruction of past backyard skating seasons in the Original Six NHL cities from citizen science data	58	30	24	6	0
Structural adjustment programs and housing affordability in Accra, Ghana	50	12	0	11	1
Producing anxiety in the neoliberal university	50	63	61	2	0

Table five: Articles with the highest Altmetric scores in 2022.

Final word

CG-LGC remains in a strong position in terms of metrics, marketing, and readership. We continue to attract readers, citations, and downloads. This is comforting given the immense changes facing the academic publish industry including Open Access journals and a proliferation of publishing choices. Our aim is to hold this course in 2023 and beyond with a new Editor-in-Chief.

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