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At the Forefront in Technical Publications

The IEEE publishes nearly one third of the world's technical literature in electrical engineering, computer science, and electronics. This includes more than 154 transactions, journals, and magazines published annually. The IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) produces seven of those publications: *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, IEEE Signal Processing Magazine, IEEE Transactions on Image Processing, IEEE Signal Processing Letters, IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech, and Language Processing, Journal on Selected Topics on Signal Processing* and *IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security*.

Included in the tier-2 Society membership fee of US$35 a year, you receive electronic access to all seven of these publications. In 2013, these seven publications produced 20,052 pages, a significant increase over the 14,419 pages published in 2008.

All of these IEEE journals are hybrid open access, meaning that authors of manuscripts accepted for publication are given the choice of paying to have their articles made freely available to all readers. These open access papers go through the identical peer-reviewed quality standards as conventional articles. This mechanism is valuable for authors whose research was funded by a government grant that requires open access publications.

The SPS is the fourth-largest Society by membership and second in publishing volume. This is a huge enterprise that requires many authors submitting manuscripts, numerous volunteers reviewing them, and staff putting it all together. I would like to offer my most sincere "thank you" to all. For those of you who are experts in one of our published fields, we welcome your assistance in helping us review qualified papers.

While quantity is an important metric, quality is even more important. Quality is a multidimensional assessment evaluated with metrics such as timeliness and impact factor. Timeliness is measured as average time from submission to publication. The impact factor of a journal is the average number of citations received per paper published in that journal during the two preceding years. The IEEE is also using additional metrics to measure the stature of a journal in a field.

The IEEE Periodicals Review Committee is tasked with ensuring quality, reviewing all IEEE journals and magazines every five years. In 2014, it was our turn. This process started with a thorough report prepared by the Society's vice president of publications, publications board, and staff. In February, the Review Committee reviewed the reports and spent about 45-min per publication asking questions of the Society leadership and the publications' editors-in-chief. Their overall feedback was quite positive. Many of our publications have an impact factor over "3," while *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing* ranks fifth in total citations and *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* has consistently been in the top five in impact factor. The average time from submission to publication across all our periodicals is under a year, with the fastest being about three months for *IEEE Signal Processing Letters*. The Review Committee was also complimentary of our publications processes, especially our recent policy of allowing papers in *IEEE Signal Processing Letters* to be presented at conferences.

In addition to our own publications, SPS manages *IEEE Transactions on Multimedia,* and we cosponsor other periodicals covering topics such as cloud computing, big data, wireless communications, sensors, life sciences, the Internet of Things, and much more.

Reflecting the needs of our members in a fast-growing field, we have obtained approval for a new 2015 journal: *IEEE Transactions on Computational Imaging*. The IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology, IEEE Circuits and Systems, and IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Societies are participating with us in this new journal, which we will manage. According to its approved scope, "The *IEEE Transactions on Computational Imaging* will publish articles where computation plays an integral role in the image formation process. Papers will cover all areas of computational imaging ranging from fundamental theoretical methods to the latest innovative computational imaging system designs. Topics of interest will include advanced algorithms and mathematical techniques, model-based data inversion, methods for image and signal recovery from sparse and incomplete data, techniques for nontraditional sensing of image data, methods for dynamic information acquisition and extraction from imaging sensors, software and hardware for efficient computation in imaging systems, and highly novel imaging system design." I encourage all interested authors to submit high-quality papers to this journal.

Unwilling to rest on our laurels, I continue to appreciate your suggestions for further improving our publications processes and content.

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