



An Important Step for ECS Journals

The Electrochemical Society has taken a very important step forward in the production processes and the online distribution of its serial publications, the *Journal* and *Letters*. Authors and readers of the ECS journals will benefit from a number of exciting new features that have been implemented. The most important change is that the *Journal* now joins *Letters* as an electronic-first journal with daily electronic posting of manuscripts. This provides authors and readers with the fastest possible delivery of accepted manuscripts. The electronic format also means that ECS journal articles will be indexed in the INSPEC, SPIN, and other databases. The current full-text HTML articles will now include expanded intra-document links, as well as citation links to referenced articles. A virtual filing cabinet feature will make it easier for readers to create their own article collections, without using a complex bookmarking method.

These powerful electronic features are the result of ECS's selection of the American Institute of Physics (AIP) for the production and distribution of its serial publications. Starting with this issue, AIP is providing formatting, composition, and electronic distribution services for our publications. The distribution services provided by AIP will enable ECS content to reach an even wider audience, with increased visibility for the Society and its authors, and easier access for individuals and institutions alike. AIP has long been known for delivering high quality journals to the scientific and engineering communities. The ECS journals, on the OJPS (Online Journal Publishing Service) platform at AIP, will join peer societies such as the American Physical Society, the American Vacuum Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the ASME International, and the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE).

This partnership will enable our serial publications to take advantage of the latest developments in electronic workflow and distribution, while remaining independent, nonprofit publications of The Electrochemical Society, with full editorial and style control. The ECS journals will continue to be a part of the ECS member benefits package.

The electronic-first publication will require one change to the *Journal* and *Letters*. Electronic publication of manuscripts makes it necessary to assign each page a permanent page number at the time of first posting. Because the papers appear in sections, a new page numbering scheme containing a section identifier is required. Starting with this issue, January 2001, an alpha-numeric page numbering scheme will be used for the *Journal* and *Letters*. The first section will use the letter 'A', the second section 'B', and so on. The letter will be followed by sequential numbering. A similar scheme was used in the past by the *Journal* for the Letters Section, which used the alpha-numeric scheme of L1, L2, etc. Although the page numbering system is different from the traditional numeric-only system, it is necessary so that the final version of each page can be produced at the time of electronic publication.

Over the years, the *Journal* and *Letters* have taken advantage of electronic production and distribution initiatives to keep costs low and maintain exceptionally wide distribution. This teaming with AIP is an important step for the Society. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship to the benefit of the readers and authors of our publications.



Paul A. Kohl
Editor