



Save a Tree

Several months ago, the electronic manuscript submission, tracking, and review program, Peer X-Press, opened for *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters* (ESL). Information and submission instructions can be found at <http://esl.peerx-press.org>. Peer X-Press was developed by the American Institute of Physics and has given authors rapid access to ESL by electronic submission and query, and shorter publication lagtime due to electronic communication with reviewers. It has also brought ESL one-step closer to a paperless submission-through-publishing model.

Recently, we have opened the companion website for the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES). The Peer X-Press electronic submission, tracking, and review program for JES can be found at <http://jes.peerx-press.org>. All JES papers are submitted through this website. After uploading a manuscript and proofing the pages, a manuscript number is assigned and the paper immediately enters the review process. Authors are able to check the status of manuscripts and submit revised versions through the same PXP program. Once a manuscript has been accepted, it can be electronically copyedited and encoded so that it is highly searchable, not only within the set of ECS journal articles, but also in outside databases and by other search engines. This provides authors with the widest possible exposure, and readers with the easiest and fastest access. To date, our experience with electronic submission and review is excellent, although not without occasional problems. It will take time for authors and reviewers to become comfortable with electronic submission and review. Time, practice, and fine-tuning will help the process.

These two PXP products have made the ESL and JES content more accessible. There are also small changes that will be taking place as we convert from paper to electronic processing. First, the issues of JES and ESL will no longer have the month of the year on each issue. The issues will be identified by volume and issue number only. There may come a day when the current monthly schedule will change to a more frequent one. Second, the copyright transfer agreement has been changed and updated. We have tried to provide a clearer statement of authors' rights. We hope the agreement gives a clearer description of the rights of each party. Last, electronic submission and publishing is (nearly) paperless but it is not costless. Although the postal costs are lower, handling electronic documents and supporting the software for a large number of users and readers is very expensive. The cost savings from producing fewer print copies are readily consumed by the additional computer support, author assistance, and electronic encoding charges. As a result, there is a small increase in the page charge for *nonmembers*. The page charge for members remains the same (one of many good reasons to become an ECS member).

Today, fewer than half of ECS members elect to receive a paper copy of JES as a part of their member benefits package. A majority of the members have elected to receive JES and ESL electronically with CD-ROM (at no extra cost) mailed at the end of the year. We desperately urge members who do not need to have a paper copy mailed to them to help us all by electing to receive only the CD-ROM version of JES in the yearly dues notice; the CD-ROM version also includes ESL. The cost of printing and mailing paper copies of JES, without an additional charge, is not a supportable feature for this size journal. We hope members who can use JES electronically (and on CD-ROM) will save a tree this year and not request a paper copy.

Our motivation for implementing electronic publishing software is not monetary in nature because the Society and its journals are not-for-profit endeavors. The sole motivation is to achieve the highest author and reader benefits. We hope authors, reviewers, and readers will support the not-for-profit, society-based journals.



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