

Foreword

Five years have passed since the first issue of our letter journal, the IEICE Electronics Express or ELEX in short, published in April 2004. This is the first trial of all-electronic and peer-reviewed journal for the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE), Japan. The Electronics Society of IEICE has devoted a great deal of effort to kick off and to grow the new journal. As a result of significant support of IEICE and relevant community, I, as the Editor-in-Chief of ELEX, would like to proudly report the continuous growth of ELEX. For the full five years, two issues were published in every month. As shown in Fig. 1, at the end of March 2009, the submitted paper number is 1831 and the published one is 652 in the aggregate. Papers from 21 countries/areas have been accepted and published so far. The acceptance rate is approximately 35%. The access number to our ELEX website exceeded 250,000 and the downloaded paper number was over 66,000.

One of the key factors for such international recognition of ELEX would be, we believe, its publication speed. The period from paper submission (the moment of uploading manuscript files by authors) to publishing was 10 calendar days in the fastest case so far. The average value is around 65 days recently, the half of which is spent for reviewing process. We will endeavor to keep the speed.

During the period of five years, two big events have happened. After exemption of page charge for the two years at the starting period, we have asked authors to pay for the publishing from June 2006. Fortunately, the impact was quite small from the view point of paper submission. Paper submission rate is increasing recently. The reason behind this trend will be that

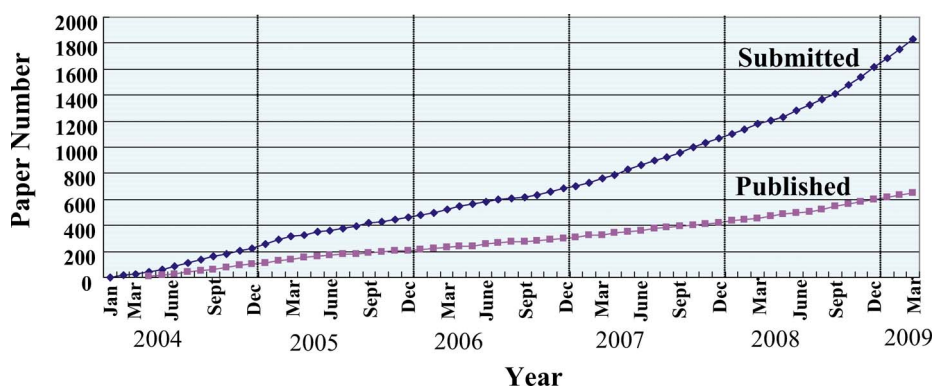


Fig. 1. Progress of the paper number during the five years from the kick-off at April 2004.

ELEX has been selected for coverage in Thomson Scientific (formerly known as Thomson ISI) products and services.

ELEX has been indexed and abstracted from vol. 2, no. 1, 2005. In addition, an impact factor of 0.436 has been released to ELEX. This value has a great room for improvement. ELEX has just become five year old. We will continue to make ELEX more attractive and important journal from quality and speed view points.

In celebrating the five years of ELEX, we are pleased to include six invited papers as a part of this issue. Three of them are devoted to describe milestones for the latest five years in the fields of opto-electronics and fiber optics, microwave and millimeter-wave, and integrated circuits. In addition to the technological progress, future prospect will be discussed by experts in each field. Furthermore, status of new technologies will be reviewed for VCSEL photonics, metamaterials and high-speed CMOS ICs.

ELEX has been going along smoothly. Such smooth progress is owing to the outstanding effort by Prof. Takeshi Kamiya, the first Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Masayuki Izutsu, the Chair for the task force to build up the new journal, Dr. Naoteru Shigekawa, the first Editor of ELEX and many others. Warm and powerful support from IEICE and IEICE Electronics Society are indispensable for the growth of ELEX. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to authors, reviewers, editors, editorial committee members and staffs in the IEICE Publishing Office for their great contribution to the progress of ELEX.



Kohroh Kobayashi
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