

**EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

## Message from the new Editor-in-Chief

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ELEX is now entering the seventh year after stepped off firstly in April, 2004, fully supported by the Electronics society, IEICE, as an innovative project to launch an e-journal of the area edited in and released from Japan independently from conventional IEICE printed paper journals. It is delighted to declare that ELEX has shown admirable growth through past six years with immeasurable endeavors by two previous Editor-in-chiefs, Profs Takeshi Kamiya and Kohroh Kobayashi, and members of editorial boards, together with well understandings and substantial backups provided by committees of IEICE and its societies, and also by invaluable devotion of the secretariat to carry on the activities. It has come to the stage that the number of articles accepted and uploaded exceeds 1000 titles along with around 3000 submissions in total to the editorial boards for the review. The scale of ELEX is growing and the growth rate accelerates every year. Actually, we received in last year nearly 1000 submissions, 80% from oversea researchers, and more than 200 are accepted for the e-publication on ELEX. We had 350,000 accesses to the ELEX homepage and downloads of 150,000 articles, again, 70 to 80% from overseas, last year.

E-journals including ELEX are now facing to exciting change of their environment and possible opportunity to extend their roles. As we go deep into the information and communication society, easy, quick and cost effective excavation becomes available from rapidly expanding enormous amount of technological informations drifting in cyberspace. And to screen out a wanted, valuable and trustable piece of information from their chaotic flows on the web, the importance of e-journals of which articles are certified their quality by peer review processes is now widely realized with the value they bring to every engineers and the contribution they make to research and development productivity, quality and outcomes.

We have several urgent issues to be solved for further success of ELEX. Examples are a gradual expansion of submitted paper's technical fields, and a slight elongation of the period to complete the publication procedure, compared with those of two or three years ago, which is attributable to the rapid increase of the number of papers submitted. We have to establish an improved editorial system by closer tie-ups with other societies in IEICE to manege these difficult tendencies. The every efforts to get higher citation index are, of course, of practical importance for all ELEX contributors and subscribers. Another important issue is to keep ELEX open access, or, free accessibility from the public, even in present tight financial consequences.

It is of great benefit for authors to give maximum accessibility, and hence, research impacts, to their articles under the scheme of open access. Most articles especially from academic side are describing results of research projects supported by funding agencies of public sectors, and, actually, there are movements to introduce a commitment of open access by public research funders to technical reports of their supporting projects to secure their fundings sufficient accountability. There is apparently an idea underneath that harvests yielded with the help of public funds should be accessible from the public with free of charge. Compared with self-archiving of published paper reprints on their authors own websites or their organizations repositories, publishing in an open access journal provides easier maintenance effort for authors and higher browsing ability with their linked references for people who need to extract wanted articles.

I am honored and grateful to be serving as Editor-in chief, ELEX from now, and looking forward to foster it with you as a highly established and deeply recognized e-journal in the field of electronics and relating area.



**Masayuki Izutsu**  
Editor-in-Chief  
IEICE Electronics Express

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