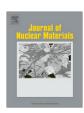
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Editorial

Electronic Publishing in the Journal of Nuclear Materials

The Journal of Nuclear Materials announces the implementation of Electronic Publishing. With this step all editorial functions are carried out online. Authors submit manuscripts, reviewers provide reviews and editors manage the entire process including communication with authors, peer review and communication with the Journal production department through an internet-based system. These functions employ the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) backbone, which has been specially configured to conform to the customary practices and needs of the Journal of Nuclear Materials.

Authors and reviewers each have their own homepage. Even the most obvious advantages of the fully electronic internet-based system require more than a page to enumerate. Substantial time savings of several weeks in mailing manuscripts back and forth between editors and authors, reviewers, and production department, and global fulltime access are among the most prominent benefits for authors and reviewers.

In August of 2007, after an earlier testing phase, the Editors began to accept manuscripts officially through this system. This followed by one month the release of the current version of EES (version 5.0), which incorporated the full functionality that the Journal requires to carry out its work. Until the end of the year authors were invited but not required to submit manuscripts electronically, in order to provide a buffer period for authors and a shakedown for the system. During this time, feedback from authors and reviewers on their experiences and suggestions for improvements were solicited and put into practice. Beginning January 2008, electronic submittal is fully implemented with no option for hardcopy submittal.

This step represents a third era in the editorial mechanics of the Journal. In the earliest years from the 1959 founding of the Journal until about 1990, all functions including submission, peer review, editorial work and production were based on hardcopy. Since that time we had implemented several progressions of hybrid paper and electronic systems in which mainly submission and peer review were carried out in hardcopy. Publishing, manuscript tracking and record keeping were performed electronically during these years.

For authors – to submit a manuscript to the Journal of Nuclear Materials, point your web browser to http://ees.elsevier.com/jnm/. For reviewers – the system depends on your generosity in responding within a reasonable time to accept the invitation from an Editor to review a manuscript. Simple instructions are provided in the invitation letter. One of the comments that we have received many times from the reviewers is that they like to mark up manuscripts by hand. Note that this is also possible in EES using the upload feature for a scanned paper file. We welcome your submissions and would be pleased to receive comments on your experiences using the online editorial system.

The Editors The Publisher February 2008