

Dear Colleagues,

We wish you Happy Holidays! Here are highlights of PSPB accomplishments in 2023...

IEEE PUBLISHING OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ **Author Portal**, which streamlines and automates much of the author's submission workflow, now has 70 titles (over one-third of our periodicals) onboarded.
- ▶ **IEEE Access** celebrated 10 years in publication; now with over 70,000 articles and \$100M in revenues.
- ▶ **IEEE Spectrum** continues to leverage its new digital design and platform to expand audiences and drive traffic to IEEE properties and products:
 - Spectrum recorded over 7.1 M unique users in the 12 months 1 Nov 2022 to 31 Oct 2023.
 - New *Climate Tech* e-newsletter launched in August has 2,500 opted-in subscribers, a 60% open rate, and a 22% click-through-rate—unheard-of statistics
 - Google News and Apple News referrals up by 27% and 65%, respectively in 2023 – for a total of 1.25 million referral by these two sources alone.
- ▶ Backlog of almost 23,000 journal articles was completely cleared. After years of building up a backlog of early access journal articles on Xplore, all finished articles were officially published and the future process is on track to eliminate future occurrences.
- ▶ Deployed the “Golden Record” database—a comprehensive understanding of an individual's interactions with the IEEE (publishing and beyond).
- ▶ Deployed internally developed author disambiguation that improves production efficiency and eliminates the reliance (and expense) of a third party vendor (Elsevier's Parity product).

ETHICS & INTEGRITY

- ▶ Expanded the Prohibited Author List (PAL) to the Prohibited Participants List (PPL) to account for cases of editorial misconduct committed by editors, reviewers/referees, conference technical program committee participants, and others.
- ▶ Validated new internally developed AI model for the detection of data anomalies indicative of editorial misconduct. Operationalization scheduled for 2024.
- ▶ Initiated and sponsored a multi-publisher effort with high-level representation from Elsevier, SpringerNature, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, American Chemical Society, and others to address system-wide integrity issues, including paper mills, editorial coercion, bibliographic manipulation, etc.
- ▶ The Publications Conduct Committee reduced its average time to investigate and close out misconduct cases by over 75% from 2020 levels.

- ▶ Instituted processes to ensure that all papers receive plagiarism checks, that those checks run within 3 days, and that all reports are reviewed.

POLICY & GOVERNANCE

PSPB was able to enact or endorse a number of important policy and editorial guidance decisions in 2023 on a wide range of issues:

Editorial Policy

- ▶ Developed, endorsed, and publicly announced (via The Institute and iee.org) an IEEE STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR OPEN SCIENCE: *“Consistent with its broad mission to advance technology for the benefit of humanity, IEEE is committed to the principles of open science. IEEE strongly supports the sharing of research processes, methods, data, code, and findings as openly as possible to promote collaboration, accelerate innovation, and advance scientific knowledge. IEEE likewise supports the transparent disclosure of peer review activities to ensure the quality, validity, and reliability of its scientific publications. All IEEE authors are encouraged to share their data, code, and other research outputs to facilitate verification and reproducibility of experiments and their conclusions. IEEE is committed to continuously improving the research infrastructure in its fields of interest to enable, facilitate, and foster adoption of these open science principles.”*
- ▶ Approved editorial guidelines regarding AI-generated content: *“The use of content generated by artificial intelligence (AI) in an article (including but not limited to text, figures, images, and code) shall be disclosed in the acknowledgments section of any article submitted to an IEEE publication.”*
- ▶ Introduced policy language regarding function, qualifications, and appointments of editors other than the Editor-in-Chief on editorial boards, including temporary (or “guest”) editors.
- ▶ Incorporated a requirement that editors disclose information regarding service on editorial boards for other publications inside and outside of IEEE, including temporary (or “guest”) editors.
- ▶ Clarified definitions of warning notices placed on problematic articles in IEEE *Xplore*: Notices for retractions, removal, and expressions of concern.
- ▶ Approved editorial guidelines regarding text recycling.
- ▶ Clarified policy language around sanctions for editorial and author misconduct.
- ▶ Introduced guidelines regarding confidentiality for reviewers who wish to use the review process for educational purposes.

Governance

- ▶ Approved an additional requirement for the PSPB Chair position (to include prior service on PSPB).
- ▶ Approved changes to the qualifications of the PSPB Vice Chair in relation to their service on the Technical Activities Board.

- ▶ Endorsed a new structure for the PSPB Operations Manual as one document with two distinct parts.

Social Responsibility & DEI Activities

- ▶ Approved editorial guidelines banning the use of the Lena image in research papers published by IEEE.
- ▶ Endorsed IEEE's addition as signatory to DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment)
- ▶ Endorsed the Royal Society of Chemistry-led Joint Commitment for Action on Inclusion and Diversity in Publishing
- ▶ Endorsed the STM Publishers Association's UN Sustainable Development Goals Publishers Compact

AD HOC COMMITTEE WORK

- ▶ PSPB Ad Hoc Committee on AI in publishing: PSPB endorsed committee's White Paper, "Ethical Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Publications", as a basis for the next round of PSPB policy development re: the use of Generative AI in authoring, reviewing, and editing research papers.
- ▶ Joint TAB/PSPB Ad Hoc on Open Peer Review: PSPB endorsed a Transparent Peer review pilot proposed by a joint ad hoc committee of PSPB and TAB.
- ▶ Joint TAB/PSPB Ad Hoc Committee on Managing Multi-OU Products and Services: PSPB approved [in concept] the New Product Proposal frameworks/templates for revenue-generating and non-revenue-generating products sponsored by multiple OUs (also approved in concept by TAB and TAB/PSPB Products & Services Committee)
- ▶ Joint TAB/PSPB Ad Hoc Committee on Revising the IEL Revenue Distribution Algorithm: The committee evaluated four Open Access Scenarios: Current trajectory, Moderate OA, Rapid Green, Rapid Gold and produced corresponding cost and revenue estimates for all four. Data has been passed to TA for analysis of impact on societies and councils
- ▶ PSPB Ad Hoc on New Climate Change Journal: Committee reported on development proposal and business case scenarios. Finalized plans will be considered in 2024.