



Changing (Again)

“When you’re finished changing,
you’re finished.”

—Benjamin Franklin

While high journal impact factor (JIF)¹ continues to be a metric of choice for many, an important, but often-overlooked metric is the journal’s “cited half-life.” This metric tells you if articles from a journal—that were published *before* the two years the JIF covers—are still being cited; in other words, it tells you if a journal has long-lasting impact. For the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES), the cited half-life is >10.0, where 10 is the maximum half-life a journal can have. The ECS journals clearly have lasting impact² in the electrochemistry and solid state communities, a fact attributable to ECS being willing and able to change to meet the needs of authors, libraries, and readers. Over the course of our 113-year history, ECS publications have transformed numerous times; and we’re not finished yet.

This summer, ECS introduced the latest round of changes to its journals: streamlined journal offerings, a new article type called a “Communication” article, and the new “Editors’ Choice” designation.

Communication articles are brief articles or reports that describe impactful research where dissemination prior to a full, complete study/paper will substantially benefit the electrochemical or solid state community. Communication articles will appear beginning with the 2016 issues of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES) and the *ECS Journal of Solid State Science and Technology* (JSS). Publishing these articles in the main journals will place them in context with their full-length cohorts in one of the technical interest area sections, will enable readers to scan for the latest developments in their fields, and will streamline our offerings for libraries. As a result of this change, *ECS Electrochemistry Letters* and *ECS Solid State Letters* will cease publication by the end of 2015 and become an important part of the ECS Digital Library archive, along with *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters*.

To be considered for a Communication article, authors must concisely describe the high impact of the research and why early dissemination is desirable for the field. Communication article submissions undergo the same rigorous peer-review process used for ECS’s full-length journal articles.

Content presented at ECS meetings and manuscripts published in *ECS Transactions* may be submitted as Communication articles, after suitable modification to ensure appropriate quality for archival publication. Although there is no strict deadline for the submission of these papers, six months from the date of the symposium is considered sufficient time to revise a paper to meet the stricter standards of ECS journals.

Editors’ Choice articles may be said to represent change itself. Editors’ Choice articles must show a new direction, a new concept, a new way of doing something, a new interpretation,

or a new field, and not merely preliminary data. The Editors’ Choice appellation is highly selective: articles must be transformative: they must represent a substantial advance or discovery, either experimental or theoretical. These articles must display credible research results and yet be transformative within the electrochemical or solid state community.


Authors may request, during the submission process, that the article be considered as an Editors’ Choice article; but this special designation, for Communication articles only, is made by the ECS journals’ Editorial Board. There will be a limited number of Editors’ Choice articles published. Only those with the highest quality, impact, significance, and scientific/technological interest will be selected for the Editors’ Choice designation. In addition, Editors’ Choice articles will automatically be published as Open Access and will receive special promotion.

ECS is never finished with the work of responsible publishing. Our responsibility is greater than ever for two key reasons. One, the relevance of our science makes it more critical than ever to make the published results of that research available to all as freely as possible; the ECS Open Access initiatives are a way to bring about that change.³ Two, the sheer growth in the number of journals (and in the number of predatory publishers who publish articles as “open access” simply for the fees and without any peer review), makes it imperative for ECS to provide the best content in the field; the Society’s rigorous peer review process is one way of ensuring that quality.⁴

The Society will continue to advance its Open Access initiatives, its rigorous journal standards, and its efforts to create even greater impact for authors and the science itself.

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1. See “Disingenuous Scientometrics” in this issue, on page 3.
2. The 2014 JES JIF was 3.266, representing a 14% increase over the prior year, and was ranked #1 in Materials Science, Coatings & Films. For all ECS JIFs, see the individual journal listings at <http://ecsd.org/>.
3. <http://www.electrochem.org/oa/>
4. Peer Review Week was September 28–October 2, 2015; stay tuned for a future *Interface* article about peer review.