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The Best in Cites

Benjamin Disraeli, the former British Prime Minister, once said, "The secret of success is constancy to purpose." The purpose or mission of ECS is to advance electrochemical and solid-state science, and we have been successful in this mission for over a century through our ability to widely disseminate relevant scientific research. The *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES) is our most important vehicle for satisfying the purpose of ECS, and recent citation data indicates that JES is excelling in this role. In 2005, JES recorded a total of 31,876 citations, which exceeded the next closest journal in electrochemistry by nearly 14,000 citations. ECS has done extraordinarily well at satisfying our purpose, and as a steward of the science, we are committed to constantly improving and expanding our ability to distribute the "best" science to our constituents throughout the world.

This commitment to provide the best, timeliest, and most widely distributed scientific research has defined ECS for 105 years. We do it better now than ever, but it has required a steadfast commitment, which has been measured against some challenging benchmarks. The most widely-recognized quality benchmark for a scientific journal is a journal's "impact factors," which are derived from the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) *Science Citation Index*. This index measures the number of citations from papers published in all the relevant scholarly journals, which includes both ECS journals; *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* and *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters* (ESL). Although we publish papers in the broader discipline of "electrochemical and solid-state science and technology," we are identified in the *Science Citation Index* with other journals in the general category of "electrochemistry." In 2005, JES and ESL had excellent overall (including papers in both solid-state and electrochemical science) impact factors of 2.19 and 1.97 respectively. However, if we just measure the JES papers classified as electrochemical science and technology, the *Journal* would have had an impact factor of least 2.5 in 2005, which is by far the best in our category. The solid-state papers would have had a lower impact factor in the range of 1.5, which is typical of publications in this mature category, which have a large number of prior publications. In JES, the "hotter" topics, such as batteries and fuel cells, have a much higher number of citations than other, more "steady" areas.

ECS journals have managed to reach this lofty publication status in a number of different ways. First, manuscript submissions have continued to grow resulting in another new record—1,351 manuscripts published in our journals in 2006. Despite the growth in submissions, we have maintained consistent and selective manuscript standards, all of which means that we have continued to publish more and better information in our journals. Second, our international scientific reach has been almost

unlimited. Although ECS maintains its administrative offices in the United States, last year we received manuscripts from 55 different countries, which represented over 78% of the manuscripts submitted to JES and ESL. Third, our ability to disseminate new science has been more versatile and feature-rich through our consistently improving online publishing strategies and tactics. Through our partnership with the American Institute of Physics we have built a technological infrastructure to manage the entire submission and distribution process. This infrastructure has enabled us to supply other

aggregators, secondary publishers, indexing services, and search platforms with our data—our readers get fast retrieval of our publications through their favorite platform. Last, this infrastructure has enabled us to create and distribute a large publication archive in the *ECS Digital Library* (<http://www.ecsdl.org/>) where readers can retrieve manuscripts dating back to 1955 (see p. 14 of this issue).

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We are in a race to maintain the quality

and relevance of ECS publications, and our outstanding publications team (see opposite page) is committed to the continuous improvements necessary to attract the best papers and broaden our distribution. And unlike the large commercial publishers in our field, our mission is to advance science, not provide shareholders with dividends. So, we remove the obstacles and strive to be the best without imposing outrageous subscription prices for our journals or other publications. ECS will maintain the constancy of our purpose; and we will persist in following that path to remain the best in cites.

Roque J. Calvo
Executive Director