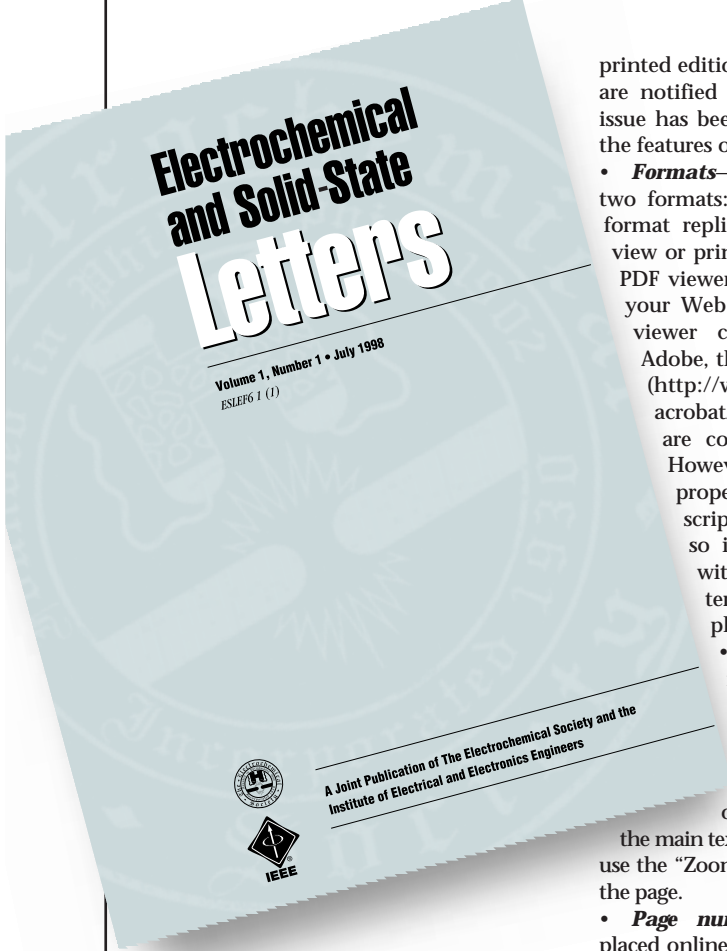


Letters

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Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters

Volume 1, Number 1 • July 1998
ESLEP6 1 (1)

A Joint Publication of The Electrochemical Society and the
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers



Letters Online

by Mary E. Yess

By the time you hold this issue of *Interface* in your hand (or view it online!), chances are you will have seen the Society's new, rapid-publication journal, *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters*. Available first electronically (*Letters Online*), followed monthly by a paper edition, *Letters* combines rapid dissemination with wide distribution, making it valuable for both authors and readers. (See the Winter 1997 issue of *Interface* for a story on the creation of *Letters*.)

Papers accepted for *Letters* are posted online as soon as they are available, making the articles obtainable weeks, and sometimes months, earlier than the

printed edition. Members and subscribers are notified by e-mail after a complete issue has been posted. Here are some of the features of *Letters Online*.

- **Formats**—Articles will be available in two formats: HTML and PDF. The PDF format replicates the printed page. To view or print PDF files, you will need a PDF viewer as a helper application for your Web browser. A freely available viewer can be downloaded from Adobe, the creator of the PDF format (<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/main.html>). The HTML files are configured for Netscape 3.0.

However, not all Web browsers will properly display subscripts, superscripts, and/or special characters; so if you experience problems with the display of such characters in the HTML version, please download the PDF.

- **Figures**—A small “thumbnail” of each figure is included in the text of the HTML version; “click” on it, and you will be linked to a larger version. Use the “Back” button

on your browser to return to the main text. In the PDF version, you can use the “Zoom” tool to enlarge any part of the page.

- **Page numbers**—Because articles are placed online as available, the first posting of the PDF format will carry only internal page numbers as an aid in viewing and printing. As soon as an article has been placed in an issue, final page numbers will be assigned and a new PDF file, with the final page numbers, will replace the first posting.

- **Printing**—To print articles, it is recommended that you retrieve the PDF format and use the Adobe Acrobat viewer to do the printing. You may also print from the HTML, but the results may not be as satisfactory. The quality will depend on many factors, including the dpi (dots per inch) resolution of your printer.

- **Searching**—Locate articles by searching the Tables of Content or by using the Online Search and Order Form (<http://www.electrochem.org/search.html>).

The Society has undertaken this electronic journal and other electronic initiatives for a number of reasons:

- **Providing a rapid-publication venue**—*Letters* has been created in response to demand from authors and readers alike as a means of rapid publication for

the electrochemical and solid-state science and technology community; it's the first of its kind.

- **Delivering the material quickly**—Over half of ECS members and authors come from countries outside the U.S. With print publications, mail delivery to many countries can be problematic, and air mail options are often prohibitively expensive. Electronic publication, which provides immediate access, is a way to address this challenge.

- **Keeping the cost down**—The cost of producing and delivering a print publication is ever-growing. The cost of electronic publication would be less expensive than paper publication, if the costs involved were only for the actual production. But the process of electronic publishing requires hands-on intervention, above and beyond that needed for print production, especially since current browser technology is so far behind the needs of technical publishing. As the ECS develops its online publications, we will look at ways to make the process more efficient, helping to bring down the cost of the electronic product.

- **Peer compatibility**—What we publish is needed in formats that are in demand now and for the foreseeable future. ECS hopes to build relationships with other publishers, and particularly with our peer societies, to make the benefits of electronic linking available to our readers.

The speed and popularity of electronic publishing will not deflect the Society from its publication goals and the high standards for which it has long been known. ECS will continue to provide the critical and essential function of the scholarly peer-review process, using highly-respected editors and reviewers, and publishing the work of world-class authors. *Letters Online* is a work in progress and the Society will continue to develop new features, such as reader alerting services and links to other publications. ECS will take the steps needed to keep pace with the shifting paradigm of scholarly publishing, providing its members and the field with meaningful information that can be accessed quickly, and in formats that meet the needs of scientists, engineers, researchers, students, and teachers. ■

Mary Yess is the Publications Manager for the Society and Managing Editor for *Interface*.