Optical Engineering Journal

The Year 1991 in Review: Part II

In last month's editorial I summarized the activities of *Optical Engineering* during 1991—Volume 30. I would like to conclude that discussion here.

Growth of the Journal

Figure 1 shows the number of technical pages published in *Optical Engineering* by issue for the past four years (Volumes 27 through 30). The percentage increases over each of these years have been 19.6%, 15.5%, and 16.0%, respectively. Our goal for 1992 is to reach 2,000 technical pages, thus continuing the trend. Figure 2 reviews the total number of technical pages published since 1978. Despite a steady overall rise, there have been some years of setback, for example, 1987 and 1988, and it is only the last two years that have shown gain over the 1986 figure. To clarify the term "technical pages," we have only counted those pages that are devoted to the technical papers. As readers will have noted, we have attempted to keep the number of pages not devoted to technical papers down to a reasonable minimum. However, we believe that these pages contain very valuable information including the table of contents, editorial schedule, editorials, book reviews, short courses and meetings calendars, information for contributors, and the annual indexes (in the December issue).

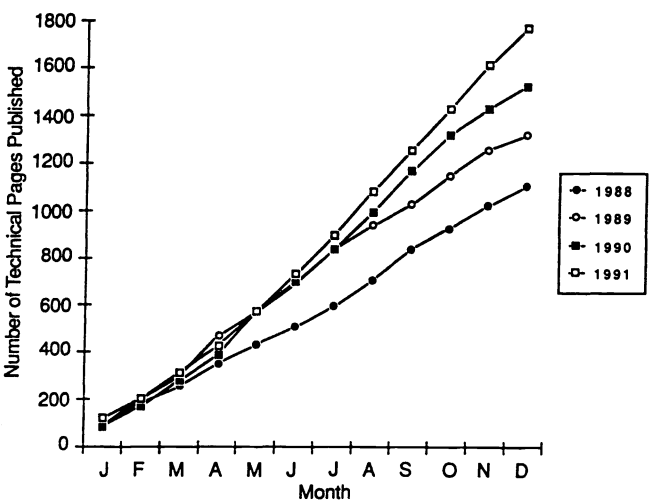

Fig. 1 The number of technical pages published by month from 1988 to 1991.

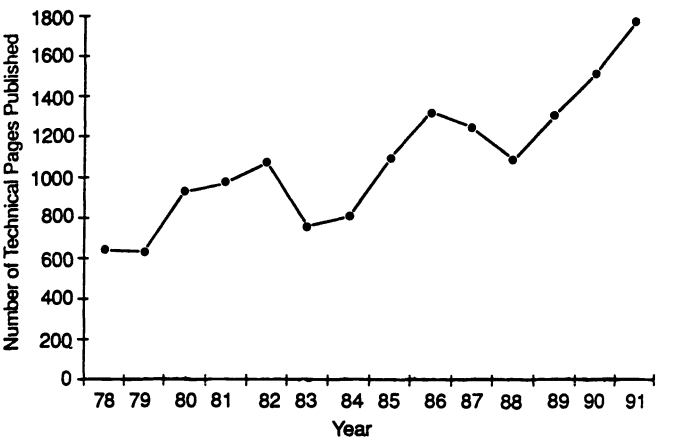

Fig. 2 The total number of technical pages published since 1978.

Papers Received During 1991—Future Prospects

The journal quality and its size are determined somewhat by the papers submitted and the special issues planned. Figure 3 shows the cumulative number of papers received each month for the last three years. This chart represents those papers that are submitted directly to me and, hence, the

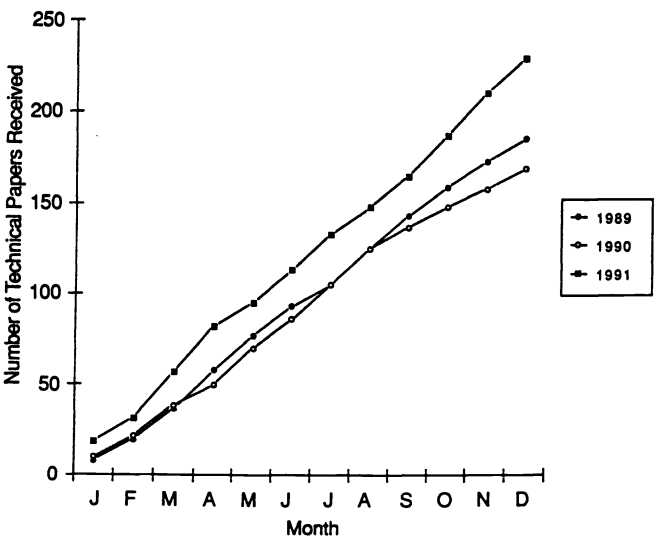

Fig. 3 The number of technical papers received by month from 1989 to 1991.

numbers do not include the papers submitted for the special issues. The year 1991 started off strong and stayed strong through December. Many of the papers submitted during 1991 will appear in the journal during 1992.

A major effort has been under way to try to improve our procedures for handling papers and reduce the time to publication of those accepted. Quality cannot be sacrificed to meet these goals. However, we believe that significant progress has been made. For 1991 the average time from the day we receive a paper to the day my letter goes to the authors advising them of the results of the review process is 13 weeks; the median is 12 weeks. We hope that we can hold close to that time in the future. Obtaining qualified reviews in a timely manner would seem to be a challenge for most technical journals as evidenced by a recent editorial in the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*[1]:

> One continuing frustration was the inability to reduce the time delay in reaching editorial decisions. The median time for my office to respond to an author with an initial decision on a new submission remained almost constant at about 4 to 4-1/2 months during the past 6 years. I sincerely hope that this delay will be reduced now that the manuscript office is centralized in Washington, but I am not optimistic. Providing a detailed review of a complicated theoretical paper is no mean task, and often the pool of qualified reviewers for some of the more arcane topics was very limited. We always insisted on two substantial reviews for every paper, and often they took many months to get.

I certainly understand his comment. Getting satisfactory reviews *is* more important than the time it takes to get those reviews.

The time authors take to revise their manuscripts is, of course, outside of our direct control. Once a revised manuscript is returned it is processed within a week and sent to the managing editor for publication—assuming that another review is not required. Currently, it takes an average of six months from the date a paper is accepted and sent to the managing editor until publication. We have a goal to reduce this time to five months. Incidentally, the median is also six months.

Quality

The quality and usefulness of the papers published are certainly more important than the timetable, but the higher the quality, the more useful the papers are and, hence, the more important timely publication becomes. My sense is that along with our improvement in publication time, we are also publishing even better papers.

SPIE Member Contributions

At the recent meeting of SPIE's Publications Committee in Los Angeles, I was asked about the number of members contributing papers. I was unsure of the answer at that time. I am pleased to report that 66% of the papers published during 1991 had at least one author who was listed as a member; 33% of all authors were listed as members.

Sign Off

So Volume 30 is really history—useful history. The purists among you who have read this far will probably find fault with my three figures. In particular, I perhaps more properly should have prepared them as histograms.

Page 648 of this issue takes us to the end of the first quarter with 547 technical pages, well on the way to our target.

Brian J. Thompson
Editor

[1] H. H. Barrett, "Optics and Image Science," *J. Opt. Soc. Am. A*, 8 (12), 1841 (Dec. 1991).

Optical Engineering Editorial Schedule

April 1992

Optical Methods and Means of Information Processing

Mikhail M. Miroshnikov
S.I. Vavilov State Optical Institute
199034, Birjevaya Liniya 12
Leningrad, USSR

May 1992

Optical Implementation of Information Processing, Pattern Recognition, and Neural Networks

Bahram Javidi
University of Connecticut
Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering
Room 312, U-157
260 Glenbrook Road
Storrs, CT 06269-3157
203/486-2867 • 203/486-0318 FAX

June 1992

Adaptive Signal Processing

Simon Haykin
McMaster University
Communications Research Laboratory
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4K1 Canada
416/525-9140

August 1992

Optical Engineering and U.K. Industry

Lionel R. Baker
Sira Ltd.
South Hill, Chislehurst
Kent BR7 5EH, United Kingdom
+44 81 467 2636 • +44 81 467 6515 FAX

R. J. Parker
Rolls Royce plc
P.O. Box 31
Derby DE2 8BJ, United Kingdom

September 1992

Wavelet Transform

Harold H. Szu
U.S. Navy
Naval Surface Warfare Center, Code R44
10901 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20903-5000
301/394-3097 • 301/394-3923 FAX

October 1992

Acousto-Optics

Ting-Chung Poon
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering
Optical Image Processing Laboratory
Blacksburg, VA 24061
703/231-4876 • 703/231-3362 FAX

November 1992

Relay Mirror Experiment

Paul W. Kervin
USAF Phillips Laboratory
PL/LMA (OL-YY)
P. O. Box 758
Puunene, HI 96784
808/871-7160 • 808/877-1231 FAX

Manuscripts due April 1, 1992.

December 1992

Automatic Target Recognition

Firooz Sadjadi
Systems and Research Center
Honeywell Inc.
3660 Technology Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612/782-7543 • 612/782-7438 FAX

Manuscripts due April 1, 1992.

January 1993

Optical Research in Asia

Chung J. Kuo
National Chung Cheng University
Department of Electrical Engineering
Chiayi, Taiwan 62107
886-5-272-0411, ext. 6210 • 886-5-272-0862 FAX
unit151@twnmoe10.bitnet E-MAIL

Toshimitsu Asakura
Hokkaido University
Research Institute of Applied Electricity
Sapporo, 060 Japan
81-11-716-2111 • 81-11-758-3173 FAX
asakura@hikari.hokudai.ac.jp E-MAIL

Yong H. Lee
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
Department of Physics
Yusung-Ku, Taejon, Korea
82-42-829-2536 • 82-42-861-1458 FAX

Run W. Wang
Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics
Academia Sinica
P.O. Box 800-211
Shanghai, 201800 China

*February 1993**

Biomedical Optics

Abraham Katzir
Tel Aviv University
School of Physics
69978 Tel Aviv, Israel
011-972-3-421648 • 011-972-3-415850 FAX

***Note new issue date and manuscript deadline**

Manuscripts due June 15, 1992.

March 1993

Optical Fiber Reliability II

Hakan H. Yuce
Bellcore
445 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07962
201/829-4945 • 201/267-9753 FAX

Charles R. Kurkjian
AT&T Bell Laboratories
600 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, NJ 07960-1910
908/582-2378 • 908/582-2783 FAX

Manuscripts due July 15, 1992.

April 1993

Emerging Optoelectronic Technologies

Vijai K. Tripathi
Oregon State Univeristy
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Electrical and Computer Engineering Building 220
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3211
503/737-3617 • 503/737-1300 FAX

May 1993

Phase Contrast Microscopy

Maksymilian Pluta
Central Laboratory of Optics ul.
Kamionkowska 18
03805 Warszawa, Poland
48 18 44 05 or 48 18 44 97

Manuscripts due Oct. 1, 1992.

June 1993

From Numerical to Symbolic Image Processing: Systems & Applications

G. Vernazza
Dipartimento di Ingegneria Biofisica ed Elettronica
Universita degli Studi di Genova
Via Opera Pia, 11a
16145 Genova, Italy
+39 10 353-2755 • +39 10 353-2777 FAX

This special issue will present innovative research and results on the integration between numerical and symbolic processing. Examples covering real applications will be considered. Manuscripts due Oct. 15, 1992.

July 1993

Visual Communication and Image Processing IV

Kou-Hu Tzou
COMSAT Lab.
Image Processing Department
Room 1201
22300 Comsat Drive
Clarksburg, MD 20871
301/428-4663 • 301/428-7747 FAX

Manuscripts due Dec. 1, 1992.

September 1993

Optical Science and Engineering in Canada

C.P. Grover
National Research Council
Institute for National Measurement Standards
Ottawa, Canada K1A OR6
613/993-2098 • 613/952-1394 FAX

Manuscripts due Feb. 1, 1993.

November 1993

Acquisition, Tracking, and Pointing

Mohammed A. Karim
University of Dayton
Center for Electro-Optics
300 College Park
Dayton, Ohio 45469-0227
513/229-2241 • 513/229-3433