

Editorial Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Journal of Lightwave Technology

*Original*

Editorial Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Journal of Lightwave Technology / Bosco, G; Chang-Hasnain, Cj; Giallorenzi, Tg; Willner, Ae; Winzer, Pj. - In: JOURNAL OF LIGHTWAVE TECHNOLOGY. - ISSN 0733-8724. - STAMPA. - 41:5(2023), pp. 1267-1268. [10.1109/JLT.2023.3242019]

*Availability:*

This version is available at: 11583/2979577 since: 2023-06-26T09:47:17Z

*Publisher:*

IEEE-INST ELECTRICAL ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS INC

*Published*

DOI:10.1109/JLT.2023.3242019

*Terms of use:*

This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

*Publisher copyright*

(Article begins on next page)

# Editorial

## Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Journal of Lightwave Technology

**T**HIS month we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Journal of Lightwave Technology (JLT), forty years after the publication of its first issue in March 1983. As stated by Tom Giallorenzi, the first Editor-in-Chief of JLT, in the original announcement (T. G. Giallorenzi, "Announcement," *J. Lightwave Technol.*, vol. 1, no. 1, p. 1, March 1983), the journal is "dedicated to the rapidly expanding field of guided-wave technology, to serve the technical community by being a strong, definitive journal for guided-wave publications". Because of the interdisciplinary interest in fiber and integrated optics, JLT was not founded by a single society, but was established by nine IEEE technical societies<sup>1</sup> (now seven, since the IEEE Computer Society and the IEEE Circuits & Systems Society dropped out in 1988 and 1989) and the Optical Society of America (OSA, now Optica Publishing Group).

The journal has flourished over the past 40 years, publishing some of the most outstanding pioneering contributions in the field of lightwave technology. Since the early years, special issues have periodically highlighted important emerging areas in lightwave technology, to illustrate trends and progress and to help foster the journal growth. Moreover, the topics treated in JLT have continually evolved over time, allowing the journal to be consistently at the very forefront of the field. It is not surprising that JLT is steadily ranked near the top of all optics and electrical engineering journals in terms of its impact on readership!

The numbers of published papers and subscriptions have been increasing greatly year-over-year. Over the past two years, JLT received more than 2,000 submissions per year, including both original and special issue papers. This number reflects a 2.5x increase in submissions over the past ten years. Despite the huge increase in number of submissions, the accepted papers have only increased by a factor of about 1.8x over the same time period, reflecting a lower acceptance ratio. While in 2010–2012 JLT's acceptance ratio was around 55%, today's acceptance ratio is slightly above 40%. Fig. 1 shows the evolution of pages published per year in JLT (open circles)

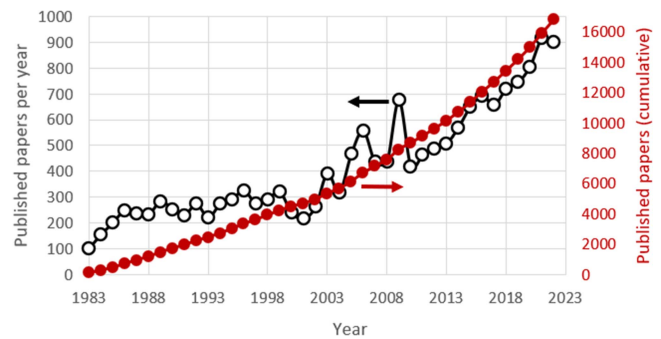


Fig. 1. Pages published in JLT across its history; open circles and left y-axis: papers published per year; solid circles and right y-axis: cumulative number of papers published.

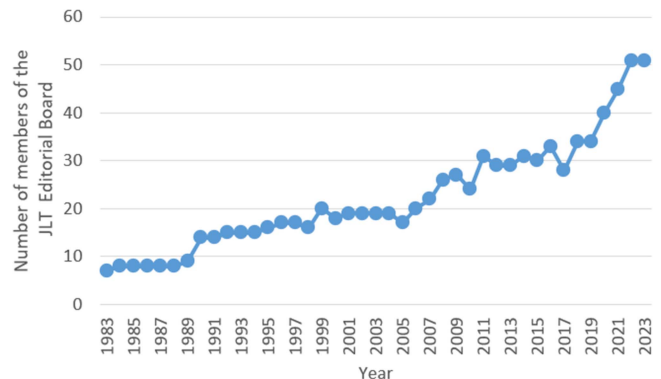


Fig. 2. Number of members of the JLT Editorial Board across its history.

as well as the cumulative number (solid circles). As of February 2022, 40 years of JLT have seen 17,000 published papers across more than 140,000 published journal pages!

In the past five years, 25% of all published papers came from Europe, Middle East and Africa, 60% from the Asia-Pacific region, and 15% from the Americas, reflecting the truly international nature of the journal.

Reflecting the geographic diversity of JLT's authorship, JLT's Editorial Board has also evolved along the years to represent all regions in the world. The quality and composition of the Editorial Board is core in establishing the quality and the strategic direction of any volunteer-based journal. In 1983, the JLT Editorial Board was composed of seven people, with only two members from outside the Americas. Today, the Editorial Board comprises over 50 members, with 25% of them from Europe, Middle East and Africa, 45% from the Asia-Pacific region, and 25% from

Date of current version 3 March 2023.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/JLT.2023.3242019

<sup>1</sup>The nine IEEE Societies that started JLT were the Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society (AESS), the Communications Society (ComSoc), Computer Society (CS), Circuits and Systems Society (CAS), Electron Devices Society (EDS), Instrumentation and Measurement Society (I&M), Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (LEOS, now Photonics Society), Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTTS), and Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control Society (UFFC).

the Americas. Currently, 60% of the Editorial Board is from academia, 30% from industry, and 10% from government labs, 25% are female and 75% are male. Fig. 2 shows the historical evolution of the number of Editorial Board members, which reflects the increase in the number of submissions and published papers across the years.

A very important achievement over the past few years is JLT's on-line presence, which started in 2015 with the launch of the JLT website (<http://www.ieee-jlt.org>). The website (renewed at the end of 2021) not only contains answers to almost all questions an author might have when submitting a paper in the "Info for Authors" and "FAQ" sections, but also features dedicated search options to easily locate JLT Special Issues, as well includes a list of the editorial board members and the JLT award winners. The complete historical list of the almost 200 Editorial Board members who have contributed to the success of JLT since 1983 can be found at <https://www.ieee-jlt.org/history>. Since 2019, JLT is also present on Twitter (@JrnlLT) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ieee-osa-journal-of-lightwave-technology/>), where the most relevant information and news on the journal are regularly published by JLT's Publicity Editor.

Since its very beginning, JLT has always enjoyed close natural ties to the annual Optical Fiber Communications Conference (OFC), which is itself a joint operation between Optica, the IEEE Communications Society, and the IEEE Photonics Society. As OFC's attendee base overlaps to a very large extent with JLT's core readership, authorship, and volunteer leadership, the conference and the journal have evolved together along the years, establishing a fruitful partnership through the publication of the traditional OFC Special Issue that covers highlights from OFC each year and is much appreciated by both JLT readers and OFC authors. An equally fruitful relationship exists with other key conferences in the field, such as the European Conference on Optical Communications (ECOC), the International Topical Meeting on Microwave Photonics (MWP) and the International Conference on Optical Fiber Sensors (OFS).

It should thus come as no surprise that the JLT Best Paper Award, established in 2014 and given annually to the 'best' original paper(s) published by the journal in the calendar years preceding the Award by 3 years, is presented during the Awards Ceremonies at OFC. In preparation of its 40th anniversary, JLT has recently announced that all its prestigious award-winning papers are being made open access (OA). In general, JLT follows a hybrid publication model allowing authors to publish the

traditional way (behind a paywall), or OA. Not surprisingly, articles in JLT that are OA are more highly cited and receive significantly more downloads than those papers that are not.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, JLT likes to wholeheartedly thank everybody involved with the journal since its inception:

- *JLT's Editorial Board, its Deputy Editors, Associate Editors, and Special Issue Guest Editors*, who have devoted countless hours of volunteer work toward ensuring JLT's high publication standards;

- *JLT's authors*, who have been publishing their work in JLT and whose excellent contributions have made JLT the outstanding journal it has been for 40 years and will be in the future;

- *JLT's army of reviewers*, who have taken time out of their busy schedules to carefully examine JLT submissions within a short period of time and have provided their expert opinion to the authors;

- *JLT's staff* at the IEEE involved in the daily operations of JLT, especially its current staff Sonal Parikh, Doug Hargis, and Chris Perry, who are diligently administering the paper handling process from submission to publication;

- *JLT's Steering and Coordinating Committee Members*, who make sure that the journal operates according to IEEE and Optica guidelines.

A very big thank-you to all of you!

With best wishes for a fruitful 2023 to the entire Journal of Lightwave Technology's community,

GABRIELLA BOSCO, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Politecnico di Torino, Torino, Italy

CONNIE CHANG-HASNAIN, *Former EIC (2007–2012)*  
University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA

TOM GIALLORENZI, *Former EIC (1983–1988)*  
Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC, USA

ALAN WILLNER, *Former EIC (2001–2006)*  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

PETER WINZER, *Former EIC (2013–2018)*  
Nubis Communications, New Providence, NJ, USA