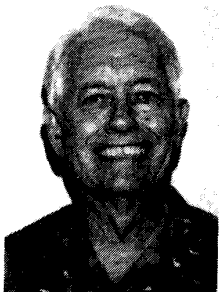


New Format for Author-Prepared Papers



IN recent months a number of suggestions have been made to improve the appearance and readability of author-prepared papers appearing in some issues of our journal. Since all contributed papers are now published in a typeset format, it is worthwhile to consider changes to update the preparation of author-prepared papers as well.

Traditionally, authors of papers presented at several of our Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (NPSS) sponsored meetings received author kits containing model paper (oversized blue-lined sheets). Papers were typed directly onto the sheets in a two-column format with figures and tables interwoven throughout the text.

Since word processors and high-resolution printers are now readily available, some changes are being made to allow authors to use these devices. Most laser printers can handle standard $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ in paper, but many cannot accommodate the larger sheets of model paper.

What are the advantages of desktop publishing? Some authors will find it easier to put a manuscript in the smaller format. To accommodate the limitations of some laser printers and desktop publishing systems, we will accept papers on $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ in paper, provided figures and tables are placed in text. By recommending a uniform type style available in all word processing systems and most typewriters, all papers will look the same. Study has shown that some type fonts are easier to read than others. A uniform font is highly desirable. By employing laser printers with 300 or more dots per inch resolution, papers will appear as though they were typeset.

What are some of the disadvantages of desktop publishing? Desktop publishing is a rapidly evolving technology. Both authors and their staff must make necessary commitments to be knowledgeable and proficient in desktop techniques. However, authors without the benefits of a state-of-the-art graphic arts department may still submit typewritten papers. We will accommodate any author of a worthwhile paper.

To assess whether the time has come to recommend desktop publishing, a survey was made of authors submitting papers for review at the 1988 Nuclear Science Symposium. Eighty-seven percent of the authors who responded looked favorably toward using desktop publishing for next year's symposium. According to the staff at IEEE Publishing Services, the change can be made in time for the 1989 symposia. Guest editors for the Nuclear and Space Radiation Effects Conference, the Conference on Real-Time Computer Applications in Nuclear, Particle, and Plasma Physics, and the Nuclear Science Symposium are all implementing the transition to desktop publishing. Those who wish to submit papers for presentation at these meetings and publication will receive detailed instructions from their program committees and guest editors.

We appreciate your enthusiasm and cooperation as we keep in step with the times.

DICK A. MACK
SENIOR MEMBER, IEEE
EDITOR