

# IEEE OJAP Turns One: Reflecting on the First Year of the IEEE Open Journal of Antennas and Propagation

**I**T IS with great delight and sincere privilege that I am writing this editorial to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the IEEE OPEN JOURNAL OF ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION (IEEE OJAP), the first gold fully open access journal of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S). Throughout its first year, OJAP has undergone significant growth and pursued multilevel expansion with the ultimate goal of catalysing innovation through accelerated, top-quality scientific publication [item 1) in the Appendix].

Towards this direction, the journal has delivered its niche and broader audience a rich 650-page first volume, comprising 65 articles from across the antennas and propagation field, that cover the entire range from technical results and applied engineering innovations to topical review and perspective articles. Several expanding article collections have been published in Special Sections, dedicated to timely topics including computational intelligence applications in antennas and propagation, millimeter-wave and terahertz antennas, and advances in computational electromagnetics [items 2)–4) in the Appendix]. Published content has attracted significant interest, as reflected in more than 44,000 article views and downloads (until November 2020). The promising start of OJAP has also been demonstrated by the number of submissions that reached 280. In addition, an average time of 22 days from submission to first decision has been achieved, enabling publication within 4–6 weeks from submission.

By upholding rigorous standards and placing innovation and openness at the heart of its publishing strategy, OJAP has managed to successfully navigate the challenging landscape of open access scholarly publishing. Recognising that quality assurance constitutes an essential component for establishing and maintaining credibility, OJAP has exemplified how open access can go hand in hand with high quality by ensuring publication of the most impactful and engaging content. In this respect, strategic actions have been taken, including careful selection of Special Section topics, invited contributions by prominent experts in the AP-S fields of interest, and rigorous peer-review.

In particular, OJAP's editorial process is founded on efficient editorial assessment and speedy publication

with the aim of providing authors with rigorous and timely feedback, as well as cultivating trust and reliability [item 5) in the Appendix]. Close monitoring and frequent re-adjustments of the editorial workflows have been introduced as essential elements of a continuously optimised editorial procedure, establishing a solid commitment to quality. Within this framework, special care has been devoted to ensuring multilevel editorial assessment and in-depth reviews, that encompass technically motivated, fair, and constructive comments.

Striking a balance between the competing requirements of speedy publication and high quality has proved to be a challenging task, but has enabled OJAP to fulfil its mission of serving and advancing open science while providing a richer author publishing experience. Through immediate, permanent, barrier-free access to its published research, enhanced dissemination and provision of free-to-use resources, OJAP has supported its authors in gaining maximum exposure for their published articles. Regular newsletters, social media channels and multimedia have been employed to highlight the impact of published research across the entire AP community. The newly established OJAP community has been significantly expanded, connecting an increasing number of researchers, who have communicated and shared their important findings, and have enjoyed networking with their peers from across the AP field.

This successful debut is a tribute to the intense and continuous efforts of an extended team of professionals and volunteers. I take this occasion to thank and celebrate everyone who has contributed in OJAP's impressive development: our authors, our readers, our reviewers, our editorial board, and our internal staff. I particularly thank our editorial assistant, Mrs. Maria Athanasiou, for her dedication, diligence, and commitment to the journal. My appreciation also goes to the AP-S and the IEEE staff, whose valuable support has enabled OJAP's well-orchestrated operation. I am grateful to our extraordinary team of Senior and Associate Editors, who have volunteered their time and expertise to ensure an efficient and rigorous review process. I would like to extend my warm thanks to our Advisory Board members, Constantine Balanis, Nader Engheta, Koichi Ito, and



FIGURE 1. IEEE OJAP performance indicators in 2020 (snapshot on November 30, 2020).

Gianluca Lazzi, for bringing to the journal a strong vision and a wealth of knowledge.

In the face of the challenging times brought by 2020, the need for knowledge sharing has been maximized, emphasizing the value and necessity of open access to novel research within the AP community. As we embark upon a new year, it is our primary goal to capitalize on OJAP's successful start and stay true to our commitment to accelerating technical innovation through rigorous peer-review and timely publication. I look forward to another exciting year for OJAP and our AP community and wish you all a happy 2021 filled with health, prosperity, and continued innovation!

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## APPENDIX RELATED WORK

- 1) M. Moghaddam, "A time to reflect [president's message]," *IEEE Antennas Propag. Mag.*, vol. 62, no. 6, p. 6, Dec. 2020.
- 2) *Computational Intelligence in Antennas and Propagation: Emerging Trends and Applications*. Accessed: Dec. 19, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/topics.jsp?punumber=8566058&refinements=SpecialSection:Computational%20Intelligence%20in%20Antennas%20and%20Propagation:%20Emerging%20Trends%20and%20Applications>
- 3) *Millimeter-Wave and Terahertz Antennas for Future Wireless Networks*. Accessed: Dec. 19, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/topics.jsp?punumber=8566058&refinements=SpecialSection:Millimeter-wave%20and%20Terahertz%20Antennas%20for%20Future%20Wireless%20Networks>
- 4) *Recent Advances in Computational Electromagnetics for Emerging Challenges and Applications*. Accessed: Dec. 19, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/topics.jsp?punumber=8566058&refinements=SpecialSection:Recent%20Advances%20in%20Computational%20Electromagnetics%20for%20Emerging%20Challenges%20and%20Applications>
- 5) K. S. Nikita, "Introducing the IEEE open journal of antennas and propagation," *IEEE Open J. Antennas Propag.*, vol. 1, p. 1, 2020.