

IEEE OPEN JOURNAL OF ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION: Reflections Two Years on

THE IEEE OPEN JOURNAL OF ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION (IEEE OJAP) is now two years old! Grippled by a blend of satisfaction and excitement, I am skimming the journal's content as I am writing this editorial, looking back at the previous year and reflecting on the significant growth that OJAP has undergone.

The journal has indeed come quite a way since its launch in 2020, by maintaining its commitment to publishing timely, quality content and expanding its international readership, and contributors from around the globe. Throughout the second year of its life, OJAP has delivered a thick and rich 1,200-page volume, featuring 112 research and review articles on timely and emerging topics, each relaying an important scientific message to our community of authors and readers.

Seven review and overview articles have been included in the 2021 volume, taking an in-depth look at antenna design, computational electromagnetics, and beyond 5G and 6G technologies, while also attempting to provide a new perspective on these topics. Eight article collections have been published in Special Sections, each comprising 5-14 articles dedicated to advanced antenna technologies for 5G Internet-of-Things (IoT) [1] and smart health [2] applications, advancements in array design and robust array signal processing [3], direct and inverse electromagnetic scattering methods [4], electric and magnetic coupling for near-field systems [5], origami antennas [6], applications of liquid antennas [7], and reconfigurable antennas for compact devices [8]. Moreover, an expanding cluster of articles has been curated with shared data and code, focusing on issues pertaining to antenna design and IoT applications [9]–[11].

Our authors' and readers' growing interest is reflected in the number of submissions, that exceeded 300, and in more than 165,000 article views and downloads (until November 2021). According to IEEE TAB Periodicals Committee Chairs' report for June 2021, OJAP has been ranked second among all IEEE gold open access journals in terms of the number of submissions and article usage. Also, the journal's emphasis on ensuring timeliness has been demonstrated by the average submission to decision time of 21.3 days. Moreover, in 2021 OJAP's applications for indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals, Scopus, and the Web of Science were accepted, and the journal is now indexed by these leading services.

Throughout the previous year, OJAP's goal has been to create its own niche in the landscape of scholarly publishing by implementing a continuously updated strategy that aims to maximize the value and influence of published research. To this end, our actions have been directed towards exemplifying the journal's core values with respect to content, editorial processes, outreach, and impact.

In particular, OJAP has focused on establishing itself as a venue for keeping up with the newest developments and trends in the antennas and propagation (AP) field, while catering to different authors' and readers' needs. Published content covers aspects from theory and design to applied engineering innovations, topical review, and perspective articles, and focuses on mature topics as well as on emerging fields, including those at the nexus of other engineering and science disciplines that are dependent upon AP.

Moreover, OJAP, unencumbered by rigid publishing timelines, has devoted special care to striking a balance between timeliness and quality, and providing authors with rapid and thorough feedback following efficient and multilevel editorial evaluation. In this direction, the journal has been closely monitoring the implemented editorial tasks across all manuscripts, ensuring that at least two detailed reviews, encompassing technically motivated, fair, and constructive comments, are collected before the Associate Editor (AE) and the Senior Editor (SE) provide their recommendations. The final editorial decision is accompanied by concise feedback to the author, including the received reviews, the synopsis of the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses by the AE, and the rationale behind the recommendations summarized by the SE.

Supporting authors throughout their entire publishing journey has also remained one of OJAP's main priorities, aligned with the journal's commitment to maximizing the impact of published research. In this regard, OJAP's publishing experience has been enriched through the expansion of the available suite of free-to-use resources for manuscript preparation and published article promotion, and the enhancement of the already implemented multi-channel dissemination strategy with new initiatives, such as the launch of our interview ("Focus") and podcast ("Talks") series. Specifically, "Focus" and "Talks" have been endorsed by prominent members of our community, who have published with OJAP and have engaged in truly inspiring conversations about current and emerging trends in the AP field.

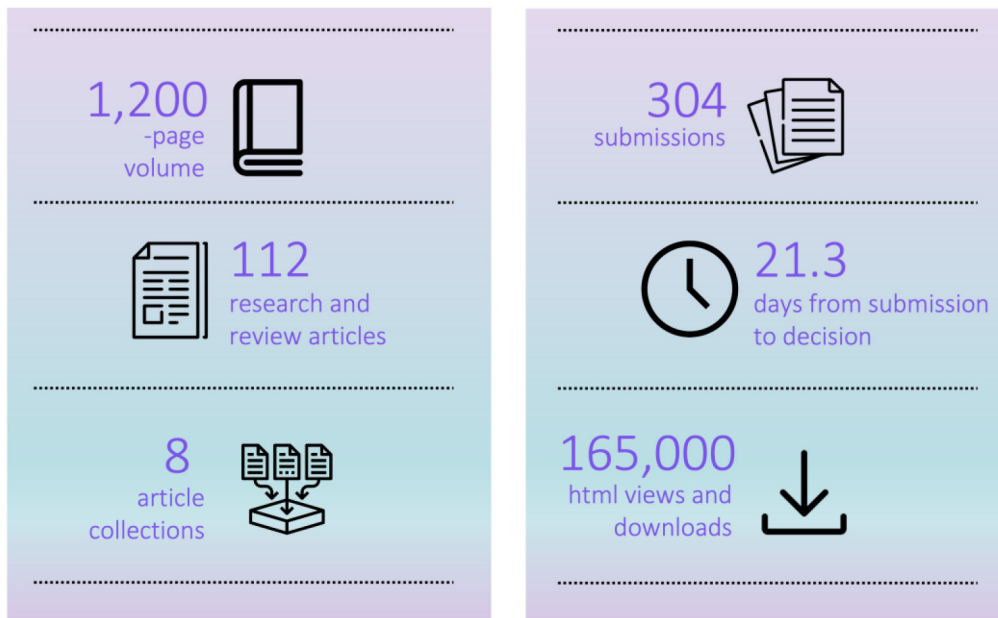


FIGURE 1. IEEE OJAP Volume 2 and related performance indicators in 2021 (snapshot on November 30, 2021).



FIGURE 2. IEEE OJAP interview and podcast series.

This expanded dissemination strategy has enabled the delivery of well-curated and interesting content, pertaining to published articles, that complements the presented research and unveils unpublished aspects of the work. It has also facilitated the expansion of OJAP's community of authors and readers, through the inclusion of different stakeholders involved in the innovation process, thus significantly benefiting authors in terms of enhanced visibility and breadth of exposure, while contributing to increasing the influence of published research on policy and practice. Within this framework, OJAP has also aimed at informing and inspiring young professionals of the AP community on a variety of, both technical and non-technical, topics towards enhancing their interest and engagement in the AP field.

As a venue where transparency and openness is cherished and encouraged, OJAP has introduced appropriate workflows

in its editorial procedure in order to urge authors to embrace best practices in data and code sharing and support reproducible research. Opportunities for data and code sharing are identified by OJAP's editorial team at the peer-review stage, and authors are asked to submit their code and data, receiving appropriate guidance throughout the sharing process.

In contemplating and implementing all these strategic steps towards OJAP's further development, I have been fortunate to have drawn on an ideal team of professionals and volunteers. I seize the opportunity to thank all our Editorial Board members, and particularly express my sincere gratitude to our Senior and Associate Editors for volunteering their time and expertise to ensure an efficient and rigorous review process. I am grateful to our Associate Editors, Dr. Qammer Abbasi, Prof. Jorge Costa, Prof. Stavros Georgakopoulos, Dr. CJ Reddy,

Prof. Constantine Sideris, and Prof. Wei Sha, who have offered to serve on the journal's recently established editorial committees for content, impact, and outreach. My appreciation goes to our Editorial Assistant and the AP-S and IEEE staff, whose commitment and support have ensured OJAP's smooth operation. I am also truly thankful to our authors for choosing OJAP to share their research, our more than 500 reviewers (many of whom have served the journal multiple times since its launch) for their diligent and thorough efforts in ensuring high degrees of scientific rigor, timeliness, and quality, and our readers for their curiosity in the research published in OJAP. Finally, I would like to welcome on board Prof. Wei Fan, Prof. Ozlem Kilic, Prof. Rakesh Singh Kshetrimayum, Dr. Sima Noghianian, and Prof. Shu Sun as the journal's newly appointed Associate Editors.

Since OJAP's launch, it has been a true pleasure for us to share this exciting journey with you, the journal's authors and readers. Looking ahead to 2022, we become more and more excited to communicate our vision with OJAP's audience and welcome new co-travellers on this journey. As OJAP matures, our aim is to sustain and reinforce its development in terms of quality and impact and provide a venue that will inspire further interactions and collaboration through its content and channels. I wish you all a blissful 2022 filled with health, prosperity, and innovation.

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