



Ranked First in Citation Impact

It is a great honor for me to share the following news with you, from the October 2004 online edition of *The Institute*, a newspaper distributed to all IEEE members:

For the first time, *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* topped the list of electrical and electronics journals most often cited by other scientific publications, according to the Institute for Scientific Information's (ISI's) *2003 Journal Citation Reports—Science Edition*.

The ISI study, released in August, ranks journals by their impact factor, that is, the average number of times articles published in a specific journal in the previous two years were cited by other scientific journals in a particular year. The ISI report includes more than 5,800 publications in approximately 170 categories. All told, the IEEE had a hand in producing each of the top ten cited journals.

The bimonthly *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* swapped spots with *IEEE Network* magazine, which dropped to second place after being number one in 2001 and 2002.

The editor-in-chief, K.J. Ray Liu, of *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* believes his publication received the high ranking because signal processing has been such a hot topic. Signal processing techniques are being applied to major

technology revolutions like wireless communications and multimedia applications. Liu also noted that since May 2002, the magazine's scope has been enlarged to keep its readers better informed and to build a stronger sense of community among them.

This is indeed a great honor for the magazine. We were compared to 204 other electrical and electronics journals and emerged in first place (up from second place last year) in terms of citation

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impact. This makes *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* one of the most influential publications in its field.

The credit goes to our authors, reviewers, editorial board, and readers who cited us in their papers. Special thanks to Area Editors Petar Djuric, Mike Zoltowski, and Yu Hen Hu for their relentless efforts in bringing us this incredible honor. This honor shows that signal processing is an active research area that, like networking, attracts wide attention. Its impact can top the entire field of electrical and electronics engineering!

While I celebrate our ranking in citation impact, I also understand it is not the only measure of our success, just one component that can go up or down. It is also important that *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* serves the many different needs of our constituency. Given our readers' response thus far, I am very pleased that we are also doing well in this area. The magazine is the one publication that all IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) members receive and it should be the glue that binds us together.

In this issue, you will also find that the magazine sports a new look. After about ten years in our previous design, the SPS leadership decided to modernize our look with a new font size, better paper quality, and fresh design and artwork. Conveniently, *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine* is now “perfect bound,” with a spine that makes it easy to find a special issue at a glance on your book shelf—no need to search issue by issue anymore! I'd like to thank Mercy Kowalczyk, Geri Krolin-Taylor, Janet Dudar, Gail Schnitzer, and the IEEE staff for making this new design available in 2005.

As I write this column, it is a beautiful autumn. While I am enjoying the color of Mother Nature, I'd like to remind you to keep warm when you are reading this in January. I wish you all a fruitful new year—with signal processing inside!


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