i-ETC - Launching a New Open Access Academic Journal

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Abstract: This paper introduces the general editorial policy of i-ETC, a new online Open Access Journal. The publication of this academic journal is based on the software *Open Journal System* and it is maintained by the Department of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computer Engineering (ADEETC), at the High Institute of Engineering of Lisbon (ISEL) in Lisbon.

Keywords: Open Access, Open Journal System, i-ETC

1. Introduction

The "*ISEL Academic Journal of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computers*" (i-ETC) is an international online open access journal that publishes peer reviewed articles in the broad fields of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computer Engineering. i-ETC is published online and it is accessible through the web page http://editorial.isel.pt/journals. The publication of i-ETC is based on Open Journal Systems [1], which is an open source software for journal management and publishing developed, supported, and freely distributed by the Public Knowledge Project under the GNU General Public License.

1.1 Open scientific publication: a new reality

Open access scientific publishing has become quite popular. The possibility offered by the fast and modern diffusion of internet to access a large quantity of stored multimedia contents is well-known by everyone. Many editor houses are moving to the open access model, or providing a parallel offer of traditional subscribed and open access journals. This mixed model is beginning to be offered to authors. The open access of the article is generally supported by the payment of a publication fee. This is sometimes explicit whereas sometimes is a hidden cost (within the registration fee) for the publication of the manuscript in the conference proceedings. In any case, Open Access is a new way for the diffusion of scientific results.

1.2 Our hopes and contributions

With the publication of i-ETC we would like to share our specific vision on this subject, producing a media which is not subject to authors' economic restrictions and that is also freely available to any interested reader. Our intention behind the creation of

this new academic journal is to give, mainly to young researchers in this scientific area, an easy access to the possibility of submitting their work to a rigorous scientific peer reviewed publication. As no publication fees are required from authors (at least in this first phase) we aim to offer to our potential authors the best of two worlds: large and fast diffusion of results (open access model), no restrictions on manuscript length and no publication delay (publication is done exclusively online through a dedicated web server). Our plan is to have this journal internationally indexed in order to give visibility to the published articles. Since its dawn i-ETC will be indexed on the *Directory of Open Access Journals*, hosted by the Lund University Library [2] and on the free-accessible *Google Scholar* web search engine [3]. Such strategy will enable the inclusion of the papers published on the i-ETC journal on the results produced by the search engine *Publish or Perish* [4] and its analysis of paper impact and diffusion. Therefore, since the first year of publication, the articles published on i-ETC will have the possibility to produce a good effect on the construction of a solid scientific curriculum.

Considering the strong competition that a new academic journal faces in this scientific area, we plan to produce a serious, efficient and at the same time rapid reviewing process. Reviewers will be asked to support with detail their comments and suggestions. We expect that many of the possible authors submitting manuscripts to this journal will be young researchers. The review process will be therefore pedagogically driven, to improve the quality of the manuscript rather than to merely accept or refuse it.. We believe that the publication of a set of selected papers from the conference CETC 2011 will be an excellent start up for the Journal. After the first two years of publication, it is our intention to apply for indexing with *ISI Thompson Web of Knowledge* [5], which calculates and assigns Journal impact factors.

Until then, we welcome the eventual submission of your results for publication on the new born i-ETC.

2. Aim and scope of the Journal

The Journal features original contributions and review articles of theoretical and experimental research both at the fundamental and applied level. It is maintained by the Department of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computer Engineering (DEETC), at the High Institute of Engineering of Lisbon (ISEL) in Lisbon, with a permanent editorial board as well as an international editorial advisory board, which altogether ensure a high quality of the editorial policy.

As an online journal, articles published on i-ETC are not limited by paper printing constraints and authors are encouraged to take advantage of the journal's multimedia resources for a better and clearer presentation of their results. Authors are allowed to use multimedia support, such as short videos and computer graphics animations to better convey complex information to the reader.

2.1 Types of Articles

i-ETC considers the publication of the following types of article:

- Research articles
- Review articles
- Short communications
- Letter to Editors

In addition to regular issues of contributed papers, the journal publishes:

- Selected proceedings of the Conference on Electronics, Telecommunications and Computers, organized periodically at the ISEL (High Institute of Engineering of Lisbon.)
- Selected proceedings of other scientific meetings within the Journal scope.
- Special issues on topics of current interest.

3. Editorial Policies

3.1 Open Access

Reading articles published in *ISEL Academic Journal of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computers* is free of charge. i-ETC is an open access journal. This is considered essential in order to allow fast and efficient dissemination of the author's research results. The entire content published in i-ETC is freely and permanently accessible online immediately after the final proofing stage. Authors of articles published in the *ISEL Academic Journal of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computers* retain copyright of their work, licensing it under the *Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License* [6]. This license allows free download of the articles from the i-ETC website, as well as re-use and re-distribution without restriction, as long as the original work is properly cited and not used for commercial purposes.

Publishing in the *ISEL Academic Journal of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computers* is free of charges. i-ETC does not charge any article processing fee. The scientific value and interest of the submitted articles are the only criteria for publication, considered by the editorial board.

3.2 Publication Policy

Any manuscript or substantial parts of it, submitted to the journal must not be under consideration for publication by any other journal. In general, the manuscript should not have already been published in any journal or other citable form.. Authors are required to ensure that no material submitted as part of a manuscript infringes existing copyrights, or the rights of a third party. The *Isel Academic Journal Of Electronics, Telecommunications And Computers* accepts for publication manuscript from any author

willing to submit article for reviewing, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, religion, political opinion, personal and social conditions.

i-ETC operates using a closed peer review system. Each manuscript is reviewed at least by three or four reviewers.

- Single blind – The manuscript need not be blinded when sent out for review; the reviewers are anonymous to the authors but the reviewers know the authors.
- Two-stage review – Those papers that require revision as suggested by the reviewer may be sent back to that same reviewer after revision. For minor revision only, the editor may check the revised version of the manuscript.

After the manuscript is submitted via the online system, it is checked by the editor to see if it meets the scope of the Journal and its formal requirements. Manuscripts that are not suitable for publication in the Journal are immediately rejected.

If the manuscript conforms to the aims and scope of the Journal, and formally respects the Instructions to Authors, the editor assigns the reviewers and the manuscript is placed under review. Based on the reviewers' comments the editor makes a decision to:

- Accept the manuscript without further revision

- Accept after (minor or major) revision

- Ask authors to resubmit and reviewers to review once again (major revisions)

- Reject

Authors and reviewers will be promptly contacted by the editor and informed about the final decision.

4. References

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