

Editorial

PIONEERING PUBLICATION OF AN ONLINE ANIMATED PAPER BY IJEE

The journal has arrived at a stage I have been hoping for since the beginning of the 1990's. In the earlier days of experimenting with interactive learning technologies it was a dream to be able to present them online in an animated form as journal papers. Now IJEE has its first dual mode paper-online, (as well as on paper in this issue) published on our website at www.ijee.dit.ie.

Admittedly—the paper we have online for free access, by Philpot, Hubing, Flori, Hall, Ogleby and Yellamraju—using computer instructional media to teach mechanics of materials, is strongly effective only in its online presentation. But, as recognition of publication is still governed by hardcopy evidence—the paper also appears in hardcopy in this issue—without its dynamic elements. We will abide by the dual publication modes of animated papers because of the archival nature of the journal. In coming issues we will have papers in this dual mode, and will keep them for free access as demonstration papers on our website for some time.

The novelty in these online papers is that they are actually real papers—not papers which refer to 'URL's to click on which may have extended and less concise presentations which are reference points for the materials presented in the papers but interrupt the stream of thought associated with the presentation of the material. This kind of paper presentation comes from all disciplines in engineering education, and we already have promising candidates from Thermodynamics, Electronics and Mechanics currently being reviewed for publication. What is more—authors are excited by these publication prospects. Up to now, the journal—and we are not alone in this—was less than enthusiastic in accepting papers which contain novel multimedia examples for hardcopy publication, because the medium does not convey the message effectively. From now on, we will increasingly judge these papers by their ability to make the online presentation.

My thanks are due to Professor Philpot and the team at the University of Missouri, Rolla, for making available the fascinating first animated online paper for publication. This pioneering presentation will change the publishing landscape in the coming future.

Michael Wald