

# Prepublication Policy for Submissions to IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ELECTRON DEVICES

**I**N my editorial in the February 2012 issue of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ELECTRON DEVICES (T-ED), I discussed a number of topics of interest to authors, including page length, biographies, the path for extending a conference paper to T-ED, etc. I did not address the T-ED prepublication policy, and this is discussed in this editorial. A companion editorial on the same topic will also appear in the IEEE ELECTRON DEVICE LETTERS (EDL).

We note that for T-ED, unlike for EDL, invited papers and contributed review papers may appear from time to time. Such papers can (and should) include properly cited prepublished materials. In addition, extensions of conference papers, following defined guidelines (refer to the February 2012 editorial), are also accepted by T-ED and by definition will contain (properly cited) prepublished material. These three classes of T-ED submissions can be considered special cases with respect to the use of prepublished material. If authors of these types of papers have additional questions with respect to the use of prepublished material, they should contact the Editor-in-Chief.

Now, for regular contributed papers to T-ED, such papers can come in two flavors: standard-length T-ED contributed papers (the norm, with a target length of six printed pages), and T-ED “briefs,” which are three printed pages in length (or shorter), and intended for sufficiently concise topics that do not warrant the full six pages. The advent of widespread use of the Internet and the World Wide Web is changing the way research results are published, distributed, and accessed. These changes have necessarily altered our views on what constitutes prepublished content and, hence, what is ineligible to be valued as “novel” in a manuscript submitted for publication. Here, we clarify and document our policy on this subject for T-ED authors. This document will be maintained in the “Information for Authors” ([http://eds.ieee.org/images/files/Publications/ted\\_info\\_for\\_authors.pdf](http://eds.ieee.org/images/files/Publications/ted_info_for_authors.pdf)) and “New Editorials” (<http://eds.ieee.org/about-eds.html>) and updated as required.

We recognize that it is appropriate for original paper contributions (regular length or brief) to T-ED to contain technical material that is available elsewhere in order to highlight the relevance of the novel content and set a proper context for the submission. Such material is considered “prepublished” if: a) it has undergone peer review; b) the published article is archived and cannot be edited; and c) the full article is publicly available, albeit for a fee or subscription. The editor handling the manuscript and the reviewers that he/she utilizes will exclude this prepublished content while evaluating the novelty and publication worthiness of the T-ED submission. Authors must

include appropriate citations to all prior publications directly related to the work. Furthermore, if the submission includes a material that is either in press or is under consideration for publication elsewhere, such as at an upcoming conference, then the authors should bring this to the attention of the editor in the cover letter and upload a copy of the related document. They should also proactively inform the editor if, during the time when the T-ED submission is still in process, the authors submit another manuscript elsewhere with overlapping content. Intentionally concealing a possibility of duplicate publication of novel content is professionally unethical, does a serious disservice to the EDS community, and can result in a ban from publishing in IEEE journals and conferences for up to a maximum of five years.

With many different media available for the dissemination of research results, there is a need to clarify which of these publications are deemed to be “prepublished” in the context of evaluating a regular contributed manuscript for publication in T-ED. Included below are our perspectives on the most important venues.

**Books and Journal Publications:** Books, monographs, and scholarly articles appearing in generally accessible publications after a formal peer review process are clearly considered to be prepublished materials. These include journals published by corporations (*e.g.*, the *Bell System Technical Journal*, the *IBM Journal of Research and Development*, or the *Intel Technology Journal*).

**Conference Publications:** Contents published in conference proceedings, which are archived in traditional or Internet libraries such as the *IEEE Xplore*, are also prepublished materials even if a subscription is required to gain access. Technical presentations and posters displayed at a meeting whose proceedings are as easily accessible to readers as a regular journal can no longer be considered as novel in a new submission. Exceptions can be made to conferences and workshops that either publish only a short abstract, or accept contributions without review, or whose proceedings are not generally available in libraries. If in doubt, authors should contact the Editor-in-Chief for clarification.

**Technical Reports, Dissertations, and Lectures:** Internal reports and memos distributed within an institution, lecture notes, tutorials, seminars, and academic theses or dissertations are not considered prepublication even if available online.

**Electronic Postings of Scholarly Articles:** Electronic copies of articles posted by their authors on publicly accessible websites or public servers are currently not considered prepublication. These include centralized repositories such as *arXiv*. However, it is important to note that this is a controversial topic, which is still being debated internally within EDS publications,

and is subject to possible amendment downstream. Often, these author postings are not of fixed content (*i.e.*, the authors may edit the original posting). In such cases, they are not even a valid reference that can be cited in the authors' manuscript submitted to T-ED.

**Patents and Patent Applications:** It is conceivable that authors might prepare a manuscript based on an invention of theirs for which there is a patent pending or already issued. This will not disqualify their submission for publication in T-ED. A published patent or patent application is not considered prepublished. However, if none of the authors are listed as inventors, then the ideas documented in the invention cannot be considered novel content in the submission. In both instances, we expect the authors to cite the patent or the application number.

**Press Releases and Advertisements:** Press releases and advertisements are not considered prepublication.

It is vital for the quality and integrity of T-ED to be able to properly arbitrate on what constitutes novel content in an original manuscript, in a manner that is fair to both the

contributing authors and earlier researchers. The T-ED Editorial Board strives to do this, but its decisions have to be based on the information provided by the authors themselves. Thus, as a final note, we want to remind prospective authors that, during their communication with a T-ED Editor, they have an ethical obligation to voluntarily disclose all knowledge of relevant prepublished content related to their submission, as well as that of any unpublished content that is in press or submitted for publication elsewhere.

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This editorial closely follows the editorial originally crafted by A. Chatterjee, Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE ELECTRON DEVICE LETTERS (EDL), with the assistance of EDL editors J. del Alamo and L. Selmi.

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