



EPL's 2009

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EPL's 2009

An outstanding event for EPL during 2009 was the tri-annual strategy (brainstorming) meeting in May held in Berlin, the day before the annual Editorial Board meeting. The strategy meeting was attended by nineteen persons including several EPL Co-Editors. I have reported in short on the issues that were raised at the Editorial Board meeting. Many of the problems identified have already been dealt with by the EPL Management Team, and I mention here a few which I anticipate will be to your interest.

Let me begin with our Open Access (OA) offers. Open Access publication is an option for any published article against payment of a fee but is currently free of charge for articles in nuclear physics (PACS 20) and in elementary particles and fields (PACS 10). We have received three payments in the hybrid group, until end of November 2009, and over forty articles published freely in the PACS 10&20 group. These figures are not at all satisfactory and we have taken actions to advertise our OA opportunity better. These include a notice in the "CERN Courier" (September issue) and also in "Nuclear Physics News International" (to appear early in 2010). Additional action has been taken by the Editorial Office by including Open Access information in the acceptance notifications to authors.

Open Access articles in EPL are now also clearly marked with a special (oa) icon in the table of contents as well as in the header section of the relevant article. A similar marking has been introduced for "Editor's Choice" (ec) articles. A given article may well be labeled by both (oa) and (ec) icons. This should direct the reader's interest towards this subset of our publications. Another measure for raising interest in a particular article is to highlight it. EPL now publishes up to four summaries, written by the author, of highlighted (ec) articles in the first issue of each volume. There are four EPL volumes each year. This promotion is in addition to, rather than in competition with, the traditional highlighting of EPL papers in Europhysics News.

EPL takes pride in the publication to date of eleven papers accepted by a Co-Editor without external peer review. I offered, at the Stockholm Editorial Board meeting, that responsible Co-Editors could submit a brief Editorial to accompany such an accepted article and the good news is that in three cases Co-Editors have chosen this option during 2009. I hope that these examples will initiate a new trend for the future.

Finally I wish to emphasise the importance of the work of our referees for the editorial process. All our referees in 2009 have by now received the beautiful pocket agenda 2010 as recognition of their work. The workload on the numerous referees is very different and challenging. We have acknowledged those with an excessive workload by offering free a three-year membership to the European Physical Society, which also entitles the recipient to receive Europhysics News.

Many more smaller, but significant, projects have been achieved since the May meetings. Their enumeration would be boring. The EPL Management Team is proud of what has been done but also realises that there are still problems to tackle ahead. We shall not hesitate to draw on the expertise of Editorial and Advisory Board members whenever we deem it necessary. In this spirit the EPL Management Team and I wish you a peaceful and scientifically stimulating New Year.

Volker Dose

Editor-in-Chief