

## MRS Electronic Publishing Survey Shows Diversity of Preferences

A questionnaire on electronic publishing issues and preferences was circulated at random to attendees during the Materials Research Society 1995 Spring Meeting in San Francisco. A total of 160 forms were completed, providing a reasonable basis for deriving information about the wishes and interests of MRS members on several topics important to MRS planning for electronic publishing activity.

The numerical results have been converted into percentages of the number of respondents, and appear in the sidebar. The numbers speak for themselves. The items in the second question were ranked in order of their mean voting score, and

that score is given for each item.

It is perhaps surprising to note the strength of demand for MRS Meeting Abstracts and the MRS Proceedings in electronic-format, and the relative lack of interest in conversion of *Journal of Materials Research*.

The second and third questions seemed to reveal a conservative priority for the basic aspects of e-format access, and less excitement over new options such as multimedia and color. Interest in personal subscriptions to e-format publications was strong.

The responses on format and technical systems and software display the broad diversity that characterizes our future

readers. Nothing is standard. We will need to hope that this community also is versatile and ready to receive new products on their merits. This is probably a reasonable presumption, especially in light of the evidence during this event of a good level of informed readiness to explore the possibilities for electronic publications, and readiness to make adaptations if necessary. This attitude is reflected in the response on author's format, where only 6% objected to the publisher requesting submission of articles in a specified language.

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### Electronic Publishing Survey Results

#### LEADING QUESTION

Would you like to have an *optional* electronic format (e.g., on-line or CD-ROM) available for delivery of:

**45%** MRS Bulletin; **35%** JMR; **60%** MRS Proceedings; **61%** Meeting Abstracts; **52%** Materials Databases?

#### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Please rate the importance of the following items/features associated with electronic publications.

(1 = IMPORTANT, 2 = NICE, 3 = NOT IMPORTANT)

(This list has been re-ordered by rank. Mean scores are displayed.)

- 1.20** Keyword search/retrieval
- 1.28** No reduction in editorial/peer review standards
- 1.41** Maintain high resolution for micrographs
- 1.42** Printed version continues to be available
- 1.44** Adequate printing on basic laser printer (e.g., high-resolution file options)
- 1.48** Faster publication
- 1.52** Convenient browsing software (e.g., for a journal issue or book)
- 1.55** On-line search/retrieval/reprint order service to include other publishers
- 1.63** Improved accessibility of MRS Proceedings series
- 1.63** Speed of download/display
- 1.65** Hyperlinks (e.g., import referenced articles directly)

**1.77** Advance access to Meeting Abstracts

**1.78** Copyright protection of my work

**1.80** Full-page images on screen

**2.08** Color graphics text

**2.15** New dimensions (e.g., 3-D images, videos, interactive graphics)

#### USAGE

Please check those statements that would describe your expected usage of electronic-format publications.

**74%** I will mostly select articles to read by using keyword search

**69%** I want to browse the Table of Contents and the Abstracts

**71%** I want to display a complete article on my computer screen,

**46%** to decide whether to retain it, or

**18%** to read it in full on-line

**56%** I will always print an article that I intend to actually use or archive.

#### SUBSCRIPTION

**43%** I would be interested in a personal subscription to e-format journals or books.

**49%** My institutional library would deal effectively with e-format materials.

**11%** I already subscribe (or expect to subscribe) to a journal via CD-ROM or on-line. Name of Journal:

APL(3%), JVST(7%), Curr.Cont.(1%),

Ms.Cit.Ind. (1%), NP (1%), **20%**

I would be willing to pay a little more

for e-format than for paper-only

#### FORMAT

As an author, I am willing to use (Check all that apply)

**19%** TeX, LaTeX, etc.; **65%** Word; **24%** Word Perfect;

**8%** Other (Framemaker, Ami Pro, MS Works, 1-Leaf, SoloWriter, Pstruff)

**6%** Special language is unacceptable; publisher must accept my hard copy.

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

- Your computer
  - 64%** IBM compatible; **38%** Macintosh; **18%** Unix; **1%** Other (VAX)
- Your connection to the Internet:
  - 28%** Dial-up service
    - CompuServe, AOL, SLIP/PPP, Telnet, Relcom, Pine
  - 36%** Dedicated access (ISDN, T1 line)
- Services available or planned for your system:
  - 41%** Gopher; **58%** Telnet; **47%** Mosaic; **47%** FTP; **14%** Fetch; **33%** Netscape; Other: WWW, Uncover, Explorer
- Your e-mail software:
  - 11%** Cmail, **4%** Applemail, **28%** Unix, **3%** Decnet, **8%** Eudora, and 20 others.
- Graphics packages that you use for publications:
  - 19%** Photoshop, **18%** Corel Draw, **11%** Pagemaker, **8%** Adobe Illustrator, **2%** ChemWindow, **1%** Trimetrix; **31%** use 24 other species of software.
- Can you translate your graphics files into
  - 48%** TIFF; **33%** GIF; **19%** JPEG; **21%** EPS; **29%** PICT; **4%** Other