

Dear Reader:

In the rapidly changing world of science, technology, and scholarly publishing it is crucial to stay current with not only research topics and trends, but with scholarly journal publishing methods. It is in this light the *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)* is moving into a new phase of digital publishing. The *Journal* will continue to remain free to readers via our website (www.nist.gov/jres), but we will cease the print publication after this issue (Volume 116, No. 6).

The *Journal* will continue to digitally publish high quality, peer-reviewed papers that report on NIST research conducted in metrology and related fields of physical science, engineering, applied mathematics, biotechnology, statistics, and information technology. Changes readers can expect to see as the *Journal* moves into a new phase of digital publishing include:

- Rapid publication – articles will be published as soon as they are accepted and available
- Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) – unique identifiers assigned to each paper to facilitate discovery
- Enhanced PDF's – to enable reference linking and embedding of links to related information or supplementary materials
- Added functionality to the *Journal's* website that allows users to share and comment on articles, import citations into bibliographic management tools, and view article-level metrics

The *Journal of Research of NIST* has been the flagship publication for NIST since 1904. It continues to serve the NIST research community by advancing knowledge in measurement science and preserving the archival record of NIST research. The Board of Editors is committed to ensuring that the *Journal* retains its well established identity and reputation for publishing high quality papers. To this end, the Board will continue to solicit high quality contributions from a broad range of authors, representing the wide variety of research and technical activities at NIST, and conduct a thorough and rigorous editorial and technical review of all submissions.

We look forward to the exciting changes ahead of us and invite you to provide comments and feedback along the way. Look for the changes on our website (www.nist.gov/jres) in early 2012. The early papers from the *Journal of Research* and its predecessors can be found in the NIST Digital Archives (www.nist.gov/digitalarchives).

Robert A. Dragoset
Chief Editor
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