
EDITORIAL



Paul G. Roetling
Editor

A New Feature

In my editorial of the April issue of the *Journal of Electronic Imaging*, I was pleased to announce that we were planning our first special section. I also announced that Eric Hanson of Hewlett-Packard would be the guest editor for this special section on nonimpact printing. However, I did not announce the publication date because I was not sure how quickly we would be able to put the special section together. However, Eric nudged the authors to submit their papers, bugged the referees to get their reviews done promptly, and with the help of the SPIE staff, encouraged the authors to complete the revisions of their manuscripts in time for publication in this issue.

My congratulations go to Eric for his success—the special section on nonimpact printing is a major part of this issue. On the next page you will find Eric's editorial, followed by eight technical papers on various aspects of nonimpact printing. I will leave the details to Eric's editorial. Please let me know your comments about this special section or about the concept of special sections in general.

For potential authors and others in electronic printing, I would like to point out some perhaps less obvious aspects of the special section. The choice of nonimpact printing as a special section topic presented some challenges regarding illustrations. Much emphasis in this area is on color, as evidenced by the paper on pages 213 to 224. When an author discusses electronic printers, it is inevitable that he or she would like to show the real thing. It just isn't very satisfying to describe what a print looks like—sample output is needed. Note the inserted page following page 200 made directly on an author's laser printer. What you are observing is the result of a very cooperative spirit on the part of our publisher and printer. Here at the *Journal of Electronic Imaging* we try to obtain the best possible reproductions of an author's figures because we know that it is essential to the clear presentation of results. We continue to strive for the best possible results when presenting illustrations and believe our flexibility gives us a quality level that both authors and readers appreciate.

In electronic imaging “a picture is worth a thousand words.” The previous paragraph exemplifies our commitment to authors. However, unless it is properly planned, an illustration can be useless. Therefore, we ask our authors to plan carefully—printing presses and the prepress processes have limitations. If an effect is barely visible in a photograph, the halftoned printed image will probably not show the effect. Similarly, a halftoned image cannot be viewed with much magnification, so the author needs to consider when size is important to an illustration. I am available by phone or e-mail to assist if an author has questions. Many authors will tell you that the editor often gives unsolicited advice as well! We strive to improve communications in the field of electronic imaging. Let me know if you have suggestions.