

Ad-Hoc Coordinator: Technical Publications Report

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Goals and status

The major tasks assigned to the IEEE R8 ad-hoc Publications coordinator for 2011, with the current status as of the second quarter of 2012, are summarized below.

Goal 1) IEEE Xplore access increaseCoordination with the staff to create roster of contactsOverview

As the position has been created this year, there was no background material for it, so a roster of appropriate contacts with the IEEE Sales and Marketing staff had to be created

Status

Completed as a result of in-person introductions during the London meeting (March 2011) of the Region.

Reach-out to Section chairsOverview

The position should be known to section chairs, and we should start fruitful interactions with them (who are the ones who know their local reality best). In some cases, the Section Chairs are not necessarily the "most interested" person, and therefore a wider outreach has also been done, but the Section Chair has been kept in the loop (where possible).

Status

Completed. Contact emails sent with description of position and request for simple information (as a means to check that email was received and read) in Q1 2011. Limited feedback from the chairs has been received. Follow-up has generated several subtasks, see below.

Reach-out to membersOverview

Given the very limited feedback received by reaching out through Section chairs, we drafted a short email to R8 members to get their interest into creating consortia. We may follow with a questionnaire to get important feedback on how to help penetration of IEEE Xplore (more formally known as: IEEE/IET Electronic Library (IEL)) in the region. The short message has also been publicized through the Region 8 News. A further article on development of the programme is planned for a next issue of R8 News.

Status

Email was drafted and reviewed by coordinator, staff, VC-TA, R8 Director. The email went out in Q3 2011, and a database of volunteers was collected and analyzed with (limited) feedback from IEEE Professional staff.

We organized a WebEx follow-up seminar held on May 12, 2012.

We worked with the staff on the case of France, where several calls and teleconferences were held leading to possibilities in getting other research institutes (such as Supelec) to get Xplore access.

Next steps for Q3 2012 are:

- Work with other select groups in particularly responsive Sections (in particular Egypt, maybe Ukraine) for fostering national consortia; we will start with a WebEx meeting with each, and maybe a follow-up local meeting

Getting in touch with national and sister societies to help penetration of IEEE Xplore access

Overview

The idea is to help IEEE Sales and Marketing broker deals with national/sister societies and orders to get their members access to IEEE Xplore at conditions tailored to the specific Sections.

Status

Chairs have sent limited feedback/contacts on this. Contacts are currently being developed (but still in a very early stage unluckily, working our way through layers of very slow organizational hierarchies):

- Italy: the “Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri” or CNI (the national body of engineering, which is a chartered profession in Italy) is currently in a wider struggle with government on the laws of the profession, and unresponsive on our subject.
- Algeria: no success in reaching out to the National Administration of Scientific Research (<http://www.nasr-dz.org/contact.php>) which is the entity that can broker us a deal for the universities there. The Chair of the Algeria Subsection, prof. Khezzar, is working with Paul Canning through other directions.
- Malta: no results in reaching out to Chamber of Engineering.
- Russia NW: Russian Association for Engineering Education (www.raee.ru) should be the right way to get in, the Section chair is trying to help by figuring out the right contact inside.

Helping staff on specific tasks to improve access to IEEE Xplore

Overview

I have worked on a case-by-case basis with the staff to help foster cooperation with local volunteers on the ground

Status

An early task was to help Sales and Marketing staff identify appropriate contacts for Algerian institutions and universities. While unsuccessful on the Xplore side, this spurred the formation of a subsection in Algeria.

I helped P. Canning get in touch with the Lithuania section to organize a consortium there.

I helped P. Canning getting a local speaker from the UKRI section for a seminar.

With the help of the staff, we got a special agreement in place to allow our Italian members to use their IEEE publications for a nationwide assessment of research which could turn into a PR disaster for the Xplore platform.

I also helped with the University of Malta request to join the Italian consortium to access Xplore.

Goal 2) Acquisition of publications from sister and national societies

Collecting names and contacts for relevant national publications to include in IEEE Xplore

Overview

The idea is to help IEEE Publication Services and Products Board (PSPB) acquire interesting peer-reviewed journals or proceedings from national societies to further enrich IEEE Xplore and make it even more relevant at R8 level.



Status

Chairs have sent VERY limited feedback/contacts on this. Unluckily, even when publications were identified (e.g. Proceedings of the IEEE Russia North West Section; South African Institute of Electrical Engineers Africa Research Journal, <http://www.saiee.org.za/arj>), the processes within the “wider” IEEE has been slow. Funding has however been supported by the IEEE Foundation for this process, and it is likely that the proposals relating to the abovementioned journals will be discussed at an upcoming meeting series (Feb. 2013): IEEE Publication Services and Products Board (PSPB).