

About the Electronic Journal of Combinatorics

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In the summer of 1993 the web browser *Mosaic* was made available by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois. In January of 1994, at the annual Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America, in Cincinnati, three of us met to discuss the implications of the world wide web for mathematics publishing. The three were Fan Chung, Neil Calkin and myself.

At the time, several mathematics journals were already being published electronically via the `ftp` protocol, but the `www`, as it was patiently explained to me by Fan and Neil, held the promise of providing a much more pleasant reading experience. Neil and I decided to start a journal in our own field, combinatorics. We named it The Electronic Journal of Combinatorics (E-JC), and Neil proposed the URL of `<www.combinatorics.org>`, which has been used ever since.

Our goal was to provide a model of a journal that would be

1. of first class quality, and
2. free access to all, and
3. fully refereed, and
4. by scholars, for scholars, free of all charges, and
5. operated with an open copyright agreement under which the authors retain the rights to their own work, and must only acknowledge prior publication in the E-JC.

The verdict is in: it can be done. The E-JC is now publishing its sixteenth annual volume, and its ranking in the world of journals has been climbing steadily.