

Announcement of the Cross-searching System, I-Scover (Follow-up Announcement)

The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE) has developed the cross-searching system, I-Scover to improve user-friendliness, and has worked on promoting its utilization to maximize the value of the content we hold. Conventionally, content searches have been carried out via individual searches; however, the introduction of the I-Scover has made it possible to complete centralized searches due to internally standardized metadata.

At present, the IEICE has about 30,000 members. It is the largest Institute of ICT related field in Japan; but recently membership has been declining. Because the decline in the number of members has a negative impact on its financial base, for several years now, it has been the highest-priority issue to work out continuous and permanent measures as part of a long-term strategy. Under these circumstances, for the I-Scover a cost-benefit analysis has been made as to whether an improvement of convenience for members and an increase in income have been attained due to the introduction of the I-Scover.

For this purpose, as we announced to members in the IEICE Journal (July 2017 issue Vol.100, No. 7) article titled “Announcement of the Cross-searching System, I-Scover,” we carried out a measurement of the effect of I-Scover adoption. Based on the findings, and taking into account both the maximization of member benefits and putting our finances on a healthy footing, we decided to end the operation of I-Scover within this fiscal year (final operation date: March 29th,2018).

On the other hand, in order to improve services for members, the Grand-design working group (WG) is currently working on studying major system changes as leading members. As part of a system renewal, we intend to provide better functions for members, making effective use of existing systems. As for the cross-searching system, we will make best efforts to secure member convenience in realizing a search system common to all content – a simplified version – using internally unified metadata whose effectiveness was validated by the I-Scover. During the period of development of the new system – about one year – members will have to search via individual content; we are so sorry for some inconvenience to members. When the new system is introduced, members will be able to use cross-searching functions.

We would like to ask for the understanding and cooperation of members.

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