

REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS POLICY COMMITTEE, ISPRS
For the Rio de Janeiro Congress 1984

The Publications Policy Committee, newly established after the 1980 Hamburg Congress, has conducted a review of the ISPRS publications program and has considered possible steps for improvement. An initial evaluation of the existing program and some suggestions for future conduct of the program were presented in a paper titled "A Publications Policy for ISPRS" at the Mainz symposium of Commission VI in 1982. That paper, written by Committee Chairman M. M. Thompson, incorporated suggestions by Committee Members A. J. van der Weele and J. Hothmer. The published version of the paper appears in the ISPRS Archives Volume 24, Part VI together with a constructive discussion of the ideas presented.

Following the Mainz symposium, the committee members have corresponded with each other, with President Doyle, and with the publisher of Photogrammetria. It soon became apparent that, although there are numerous questions of publications policy, as discussed at the Mainz symposium, the primary problem is the future of Photogrammetria. As the official journal of ISPRS, Photogrammetria has led a fragile mode of existence: low circulation (less than 1000), thin issues (34 pages in March 1982), irregular publication, high subscription rate (\$56/year), lack of advertising, and limited influence.

In December 1983, Publications Policy Committee Member van der Weele (who is also the editor of Photogrammetria) met in Amsterdam with President Doyle and Messrs. van der Rijst and Stunt of Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company. The group discussed various suggestions for the improvement of Photogrammetria, including those contained in notes and letters prepared by members of the Publications Policy Committee. Professor van der Weele summarized the conclusions reached at the Amsterdam meeting, and it is fair to say that this summary represents the views of the Publications Policy Committee regarding the future of Photogrammetria. The summary is paraphrased and amplified with suggestions received subsequently from committee members, as follows:

1. For the present, the suggestion to discontinue Photogrammetria should be rejected. It is unthinkable that ISPRS should be without an official publication.
2. A new, very active Editor-in-Chief should be appointed to succeed Professor van der Weele (who plans to resign at the Rio Congress after years of dedicated service). President Doyle will propose that ISPRS offer an honorarium to the new editor in order to enable him to spend enough time on the job.
3. An Editorial Board should be established with four Section Editors responsible respectively for
 - o Scientific - Technical Section
 - o Book Review Section
 - o Reports Section
 - o News Section

Each Section Editor should be responsible for a well-defined percentage of pages available for his Section in each issue. The Section Editors should be reimbursed by ISPRS for out-of-pocket expenses.

4. A discount of 50% in the subscription rate can be offered by Elsevier to those individuals who order Photogrammetria through their member organizations.
5. Contents of the journal should be improved in the following ways:
 - o Future Technical Commission Presidents and Working Group Chairmen should be obligated by the Council to provide Photogrammetria with up-to-date information about their activities.
 - o A special effort should be made to establish a network of information channels, so that news from all over the world may be collected and published without delay.
 - o Selected papers from symposia or work group meetings should be considered for publication in Photogrammetria, even if published in the archives. Technical Commission Presidents should be charged by the Councils to provide a supply of significant papers to the Editor.
 - o The present policy of publishing unusually interesting papers that may be offered directly to Photogrammetria and approved by the Editorial Board should be continued.
 - o Special efforts are required for publication of book reviews.
 - o The publication of abstracts of papers from other sources should have low priority or be omitted entirely since this does not provide computerized retrieval.
6. When the above measures are implemented, the results will be evaluated after a period of four years. If the anticipated increase in revenue is realized, Elsevier should consider paying the Editor-in-Chief and the expenses of the Section Editors.
7. Consideration should be given to amending the By-laws of the ISPRS Statutes to provide that the First Vice President of ISPRS be assigned to chair and convene a meeting of the Editorial Board of Photogrammetria once every four years.

The Publications Policy Committee recommends to the Council that the measures described above be implemented immediately after the Rio de Janeiro Congress. The essential principles of the committee's views will be presented in a paper "The Future of Photogrammetria" by J. Hothmer at the Rio de Janeiro Congress.

The Committee is pleased to note the excellent state of the Archives of the Technical Commission Symposia held during 1982. All seven Commissions have published the proceedings of these symposia, ranging in length from 272 pages to 1446 pages. Commissions V and VII published their proceedings in two volumes each. Of special relevance to this report is the 356-page Proceedings of the Commission VI Symposium held at

Mainz in 1982. This volume, titled "Facing the Future of Scientific Communication," Archives vol. 24 -- part 6 contains in its 56 papers and discussions a wealth of material bearing directly on publications policy. Because it is not possible to include all the good ideas presented in the proceedings volume in the main body of this report, the Committee has adopted the Proceedings Volume, Mainz 1982, as an appendix to this report.

The Publications Policy Committee submits the following conclusions on some debatable subjects:

1. The basic philosophy for establishing Regional International publications (RIP's) has merit, but national sensitivities appear to preclude the elimination of national journals in favor of several regional journals.
2. In the past, only a fraction of Member Organizations have delivered National Reports to the Congress. If this occurs at the Rio de Janeiro Congress, the Council or General Assembly should consider either abandoning National Reports or encouraging all Member Organizations to submit National Reports in 1988 for the benefit of the many people who find them of interest.
3. The development of the ISPRS Information Retrieval System (ISPRS-IRS) should be supported and encouraged. The publication of technical articles serves little purpose unless the material can be readily located. The Committee encourages Commission VI to continue the work initiated by Professor Hothmer in his role as "Convener ISPRS-IRS" for the joint effort by FIG, IAG, ICA, ISM and ISPRS to establish a practical information retrieval system.

One other activity of the Publications Policy Committee bears mention. President Doyle suggested to the Committee Chairman that a publication describing ISPRS organizations and programs would be quite useful. Accordingly, the Chairman prepared a 16-page brochure with a permanent section containing information on ISPRS historical background, objectives, membership, organization, technical commissions, publications, awards, and finances. The appendix, to be changed every four years, gives the names and addresses of the Council members, the special committee chairmen, the Technical Commission Presidents and Secretaries, and the Working Group Chairmen and Co-chairmen. In mid-1983, 500 copies of the brochure were printed, and these are available for the 1984 Rio de Janeiro Congress.

President Doyle and all members of the Publications Policy Committee (as listed below) reviewed the first draft of this report and each offered valuable suggestions. In preparing this final version of the report, the Chairman endeavored to include all these suggestions, to the extent feasible.

Publications Policy Committee

Morris M. Thompson

Morris M. Thompson, Chairman
 Jurgen Hothmer
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