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THE FUTURE OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIA  
AS OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ISPRS

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A B S T R A C T

The present state of the periodical is analysed. An updated editorial concept and views for a modern editorial management combined with a typographical redesign are presented with the objective to increase both readership and circulation.

1 Present state

A first basis for international exchange of information in our field was laid when Eduard DOLEZAL from Vienna founded the International Archive of Photogrammetry as early as 1908. It was published in unregular intervals. Six volumes were edited until 1930. The International Society of Photogrammetry then decided to use the Archive for publishing the proceedings of its Congresses. At the same time, a need was felt to have a more frequent publication for improving international exchange of information. As an outcome, the journal PHOTOGRAMMETRIA was founded in 1938 by Otto von GRUBER and Willem SCHERMERHORN with H. Wichmann, Berlin, as publisher and edited by Kurd SLAWIK. The Fifth ISP Congress Rome 1938 approved PHOTOGRAMMETRIA to be the Official Journal of the Society.

The periodical had to be discontinued in 1944. PHOTOGRAMMETRIA was revitalized in 1949 with Willem SCHERMERHORN as Chief Editor and Argus, Amsterdam, as publisher as a trimonthly journal. Anton van der WEELE followed as Chief Editor from 1968 up to the present. Meanwhile, PHOTOGRAMMETRIA is a bimonthly journal produced by Elsevier Science Publishers in Amsterdam.

For the past 20 years or so, some national journals grew bigger and bigger being also circulated in many different countries. Instead, PHOTOGRAMMETRIA received less attention, although both, the Chief Editor as well as the publisher made any noble effort to produce the periodical within given constraints. One reason for this development seems to be that PHOTOGRAMMETRIA continues to be a primary source journal, whereas most national periodicals are 'professional' journals.

In the field of publication one distinguishes between primary and secondary source journals (RICHARDSON 1982 and HOTHMER 1983). A primary source journal publishes original articles on findings of research and development and, in addition, reviews on books serving the same scope. In contrast, secondary source journals concentrate on contributions which can be summarized under the heading of professional education. Hence, they publish, inter alia,

comments on research findings, articles on application, reports on meetings, and news. Obviously, they have a larger circulation. As the costs for publishing a periodical depend on the print run, primary source journals are more expensive, yet face, nevertheless, financial difficulties. Some ceased to exist. To counteract, other ones merged with secondary source journals. This type of periodical is termed in German 'Fachzeitschrift' (professional journal). Many journals of high reputation are nowadays organized as Fachzeitschrift.

The feasibility of an international journal can be compared with the new concept of a Regional International Periodical (RIP). There are, indeed, in our era some merits in favour of a RIP (HOTHMER 1982). However, implementation of RIPs seems to be impracticable in this decade. Hence, no modern substitute for our international journal is available.

The General Assembly ISPRS appointed 1980 a Publications Policy Committee. A most valuable and constructive account had been compiled by THOMPSON 1982. The pros and cons on PHOTOGRAMMETRIA have been discussed intensively at the Symposium of Commission VI ISPRS in Mainz 1982 (see Proceedings pp 153 - 157), including comments from the President and Secretary General ISPRS. The general consensus has been formulated by the Chairman of the Publications Policy Committee ISPRS: "It is simply unthinkable that ISPRS should be without an official journal. Discontinuance of PHOTOGRAMMETRIA would be an unacceptable alternative. It is likewise unacceptable that PHOTOGRAMMETRIA should continue its present fragile mode of existence. Upgrading and revitalizing the publication is of paramount importance to ISPRS. What must be sought is a recognition of serious photogrammetrists and remote sensing scientists throughout all continents that PHOTOGRAMMETRIA is indeed a world journal in our science".

The following considerations on editorial policy and editorial management are an attempt to comply with this demand. In fact, they extend the first editorial program (SCHERMERHORN 1938) into the present era.

## 2 Editorial policy

PHOTOGRAMMETRIA has to cover photogrammetry as well as remote sensing in the mode of a Fachzeitschrift (professional journal). The periodical shall be arranged in four sections:

- + Scientific - Technical Section, disposing on 60% - 70% of the pages per annum;
- + Book Review Section, disposing on 10% - 15% of the pages per annum;
- + Reports Section, disposing on 10% - 15% of the pages per annum;
- + News Section, disposing on 10% of the pages per annum.

The Scientific - Technical Section should comprehend

- + research papers (primary source articles);
- + papers on application of research findings and on procedures evolving therefrom;
- + review papers elaborating on the present state in a particular, well defined subfield, specifically where rapid development is going on;
- + selected papers from congresses, symposia and other meetings that are only published in the grey literature (e.g. proceedings);
- + synopsis on doctoral thesis';
- + translations into English of selected articles from national journals when having been published originally e.g. in Chinese, Japanese, or Russian;
- + self portrait of a key institution in photogrammetry and/or remote sensing of a country to communicate, for the benefit of other countries, its operational mode and technical achievements;
- + discussion on articles and replies with pros and cons for a motion.

The task of the Book Review Section is to cover books related to the wide field of photogrammetry and remote sensing being published in as many ISPRS Member Countries as is feasible, thus considering, inter alia, also books not written in latin characters, and a good reason is that the only book, known to this writer, which deals with higher order terms for distortion in aerial survey cameras, is written in Chinese. Any subscriber to PHOTOGRAMMETRIA must feel assured that the Book Review Section is a reliable source of information.

The Reports Section shall comprehend reports on all events having international or regional geographical relevance, particularly on

- + congresses, symposia, working group meetings, council meetings and exhibitions of ISPRS;
- + joint board meetings of Sister Societies;
- + events and activities of other Societies having an impact on photogrammetry and remote sensing (archeological, geological, agricultural, engineering etc);
- + United Nations conferences and meetings touching the field of ISPRS;
- + obituaries of eminent photogrammetrists and remote sensing pioneers;
- + table of content and author index of PHOTOGRAMMETRIA (annually).

The Reports Section must be as reliable as possible.

The News Section should comprehend informations having international or regional geographic relevance, particularly on

- + ISPRS matters such as forthcoming congresses, symposia and meetings of commissions and working groups; addresses of all Members (once in four years), and change of addresses of Members; welcoming new Members; sustaining Members; Council members (once every year); Commission Presidents and Working Group Chairmen (once every two years); awards;
- + activities of Sister Societies;
- + international bodies such as UN, FAO, UNESCO when touching the field of ISPRS;
- + regional bodies such as NASA, ESA when touching the field of ISPRS;
- + multilateral (UNDP) and bilateral projects of technical co-operation for development;
- + research projects;
- + launching of space vehicles with a bearing on ISPRS;
- + professional placements of international relevance.

The Reports Section is retrospective whereas the News Section is futureminded.

### 3 Editorial management

Up to the present, one editor is responsible for PHOTOGRAMMETRIA. However, it is obvious that one editor can not cover the aforementioned wide range of content. Therefore, four Section Editors are required who are themselves responsible for their Sections. The Scientific - Technical Editor shall serve as Chief Editor.

The routine part of the editing work is done by staff of the publisher. Hence, the Section Editors can concentrate on organizing a most valuable content for their Sections.

The Editors are expected to work on an honorary basis. Their expenses must be reimbursed.

Scientific - technical contributions are supposed to be read by two reviewers for approval of publication in PHOTOGRAMMETRIA. That requires establishing an Article Review Committee. The Chief Editor invites eminent specialists of various subfields to serve in this Committee.

The policies for publishing PHOTOGRAMMETRIA need to be discussed once in a four years intervall by an Editorial Board. Members of this Board should be :

- + The First Vicepresident ISPRS as Chairman, who convenes the meeting;
- + the President Commission VI being responsible within ISPRS for periodicals;
- + one or two distinguished colleagues as nominated by the Council ISPRS;
- + one delegate of the Publisher;
- + all four Section Editors, with the Reports Editor being responsible for the minutes;
- + members of the Article Review Committee.

The Council ISPRS should stipulate very clearly that it is an obligation for the Commission Presidents and for the Working Group Chairmen to provide PHOTOGRAMMETRIA with up to date information about their activities.

#### 4 Appearance and typographical layout

Although content has doubtless priority, also the appearance must be attractive to readers. We feel that some improvements are feasible.

A new front cover design has been initiated.

Quite large characters are applied within the present typography, and the space on each page is not used very intensively. Sometimes full pages are even blank. No wonder, thus, that subscribers believe there is little value for the money. To counteract, a typographical redesign has been proposed with the objectives

- + to print more content on a page by using smaller characters and make better use of the page margin, and
- + to make the four sections of the journal better distinguishable.

Some time after implementation of the new editorial concept, the available pages for both the Book Review and the Reports Section may not anymore suffice. In that case a microfiche should be added to some issues of the journal, at least for a test period of four years.

#### 5 Concluding remark

Ideas of many prominent photogrammetrists and remote sensing specialists have been merged into this new editorial concept. We anticipate that it will inject new life into PHOTOGRAMMETRIA. Yet, the well being of our periodical depends finally on most energetic Section Editors. We sincerely hope that most dedicated colleagues will tackle the challenging task. We are assured that the ISPRS Council and the Publisher will do their utmost best to promote PHOTOGRAMMETRIA as the Official Journal of our Society.

#### 6 Literature references

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