



Publications & ISPRS Journal



ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

By E. Baltsavias, *Editor-In-Chief*

Relations to Council/Publisher

The Editor-in-Chief (EIC) was invited to ISPRS Council and Joint Council/TCP meetings and presented matters related to the Journal. A meeting with Elsevier in April took place.

Helava Award

The evaluation of the 1996, 1997 and 1998 papers has been completed and the Best Paper of each year is announced in the ISPRS Journal, ISPRS Highlights, Journal and ISPRS WEB sites. All jury members have worked hard and done an excellent job. The five "2nd jury" members for the period 1996-1999, and five "1st jury" members for the period 2000-2003 have been selected by Council.

PR for the Journal

A new PR flyer was prepared and distributed in various scientific events. Measures to contact firms for advertising in the Journal have been taken. ISPRS officers were informed on recent electronic developments of the Journal (see below).

Number of Papers

Four issues (two of them double) with ca. 370 pages were published. After a low of papers in the middle of 1998 many papers were submitted, leading to a long queue and publication delays, especially for the regular papers. To reduce this problem, an increase of the number of pages from 360 to 480 starting from 2000 and higher priority to regular papers (compared to special/theme issues) were approved.

Special/theme Issues of 1999 and Guest Editors

- Airborne Laser Scanning, Vol. 54/2-3, A. Wehr/U. Lohr
- Women's Activities in ISPRS, Vol. 54/4, M. Madden/M. Sester/T. Krug

Planned Theme Issues for 2000/early 2001 and Guest Editors

- Spatial Modelling and the Fundamentals of GIS, Y.C. Lee/M. Molenaar
- Imaging Spectroscopy and Hyperspectral Imaging, A. Skidmore/F. van der Meer/N.N.

Hardcopy Subscriptions

Final results for 1997 and 1998 show a reduction of ca. 3%. The status in September 1999 compared with September 1998 shows an increase of personal subscriptions of 25% and a decrease in institutional subscriptions of 6.7% (but the latter decrease was fully compensated by electronic subscriptions). Subscription rates for 2000 will increase by

7.5%, while the number of pages will increase by 33%.

Journal Related Activities for the Congress

These issues have been discussed with Elsevier and have been presented to Council and the Congress Director. They include among others, a special display booth, a special offer for individual subscribers and other PR actions, the presentation of the first Helava Award and an Editorial Board dinner.

Review Process

There was no significant change in the quality and timeliness of the reviews, i.e. an improvement is still needed, while the time from submission to publication (in 1998 ca. 1 year) has been increased due to the above mentioned problems. Submission of papers via e-mail and ftp has been increasingly used, with increased problems due mainly to poor quality/compatibility of Microsoft's software. The quality and format of the papers have remained very variable from very poor to very good. Improvement of paper and review quality and shorter publication time should be the main aim for the next period.

Electronic Version of the Journal and Electronic Subscriptions

The most important new development regarding the Journal is the availability of an electronic version. Electronic journals, sold in bundled with other journals to university libraries or consortia (e.g. universities in California, Ohio, Arizona, Sweden), bring the Journal onto the desktop of sometimes more than a hundred thousand members of a single subscriber. These WEB-based offers are launched under the names ScienceDirect and ScienceDirect OnSite. In the latter case, all data reside locally for faster access and are managed by special software developed by Elsevier for browsing, searching etc. Such agreements have increased significantly over the last period (ca. 40 agreements regarding the Journal have been achieved so far). A subscription gives access to the full text of the journals to which an institute subscribes, as well as to the contents and abstracts of all Elsevier journals to which the institute does not subscribe. If interested in the full text of an article, this can be ordered directly through a document delivery service. Currently, it is estimated that the Journal is electronically available to ca. 2 million persons. Bibliographic information and abstracts of the Journal are provided by electronic databases, abstracting/indexing services on the WEB, CDs etc., thus substantially increasing the exposure of the scientific work of ISPRS. One of the latest developments is the launch of a reference-linking service in the first quarter of 2000. This is a co-operative effort among 12 leading scientific publishers

such as Academic Press, Blackwell, Kluwer, Springer, Wiley and Elsevier. This allows researchers to move easily from a journal's article reference to the content of the cited journal article. At the outset approximately 3 million articles will be linked, and over half a million more each year thereafter.

Varia

- Negotiations for a new 4-year contract with the publisher have started. All important points for the contract have been discussed in detail with the Council.
- An easy way to order special/theme issues via WEB-based order forms and use of credit card payment have been introduced and implemented for the "Imaging and Modelling for Virtual Reality" and "Airborne

Laser Scanning" issues.

- Abstracts and full text of all papers since August 1998 have been made available for free on the Journal WEB site until the end of 1999. Thereafter, hardcopy institutional subscribers will have free electronic full-paper access for all their members, thus leading to a much larger number of potential readers.
- The WEB-site of the Journal at Elsevier has been redesigned with a better overview. On-line ordering of a sample copy (hardcopy or electronic) is now possible. New improved instructions for authors have been proposed by EIC and are under evaluation by Elsevier.
- The Journal and ISPRS Highlights have started the



Annual Report ISPRS Highlights

Lucas Janssen (Editor-in-Chief)

Johan Boesjes (GITC, Publisher)



Content

In 1999 four quarterly issues of the ISPRS Highlights were published by GITC BV, Lemmer, the Netherlands, in close co-operation with the ISPRS Secretary General. It is our objective to produce a magazine with relevant information for professionals dealing with definition and production of spatial information, with focus on ISPRS' related projects and activities.

Table 1 gives a summary of the issues published. In 1999 the editorial team has achieved an increased use of colour and an increased use of head-shot photo's. In this year the concept of 'feature article' was introduced and we started publishing the winners of the UV Heleva Award. Still, the magazine could better achieve its goals if more material would be submitted by Technical Commission Presi-dents, Working Group Chair-persons, ISPRS' members and the industry. In principle, all material published in the Highlights is made available on the ISPRS Home Page.

Subscription and Distribution

Apart from distribution to ISPRS' members Highlights was also distributed at ISPRS conferences and other important events in our line of business such as the Intergeo '99, and the Photogrammetrische Woche. From March 1999

onwards it is possible to have a personal or library subscription to ISPRS Highlights.

The effectivity of distribution to the members by sending a stack of copies to one address was discussed with at the Joint Meeting and it was decided to change the distribution to direct mail starting as soon as possible.

With respect to paid advertisements there was a slight growth in 1999. To make the publishing of ISPRS Highlights economically sustainable a new advertisement policy was proposed to the Council.

In the December Highlights a reader survey was carried out to gather information about the profile of the reader, the content and the effectivity and format of distribution. The result of the reader survey will be published later.



Issue	# pages	Print run	Featuring
1 March 1999	64	2100	- Annual Report of 1998
1 June 1999	48	2350	- Feature Article by L.W. Fritz - Winners Heleva Award 1997
1 September 1999	56	2800	- Feature Article by J. Neer - Interviews with K.J. Beek and M. Molenaar - Winners Heleva Award 1998
1 December 1999	48	2100	- Ikonos' first images - UNISPACE III reports

Table 1: Overview of 1999 Highlights.

ISPRS Homepage

By André Streilein, December 1999

General Remarks

The World Wide Web (WWW) has become a worldwide phenomenon and will be a major and vital, data sharing system for humankind in the 21st Century. Often confused with the Internet, the WWW is actually a sub-set of computers around the world that are connected with hypertext, based on the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP). Because of its position as the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, it is essential that ISPRS maintain a very visible and active position on the WWW through the creation of exciting and informative WebPages. However, the primary function of these WebPages will be to convey, share and distribute information.

New Domain Name and Address

The international reservation of the domain name 'isprs.org' for ISPRS has been concluded in September 1999. Hence, in the future any Internet address ending on the suffix

'isprs.org' can be released for all different ISPRS activities. In addition the ISPRS server moved physically to a computer at the Technical University of Delft / The Netherlands and has since mid September 1999 been accessible under the new Internet address 'www.isprs.org'. The old addresses and links under 'www.geod.ethz.ch/isprs' are now mapped to the new location and remain virtually valid.

Information on the ISPRS Homepage

As of December 1999 there are about 450 HTML (HyperText Markup Language) documents with about 170'000 lines of information available on the ISPRS Homepage.

In November 1999 the main entrance page of the ISPRS web server was completely redesigned. It consists now of three sections containing breaking news, an ordered list of links to the main destinations and a table of contents. Thus short-term announcements or information which do not provide further links can be announced in a prominent place.

Traffic on the ISPRS Server

With the establishment of the new address, the ISPRS web-server reveals increasing interest by the community. In the three months since mid September 1999 a total of about 66,000 web page hits from 5,500 unique visitors were monitored. This is an average of about 22,000 requests per month, 711 requests per day or one request every 2 minutes. On average 60 unique visitors per day are requesting information from the ISPRS server. A monthly statistic, for the number of requests from the ISPRS server since January 1995, is available Figure 1. The steady increase of the use of ISPRS documents over the last 4 years and especially the last three months is obvious. At the present time the ISPRS server answers about 26,000 requests per month.

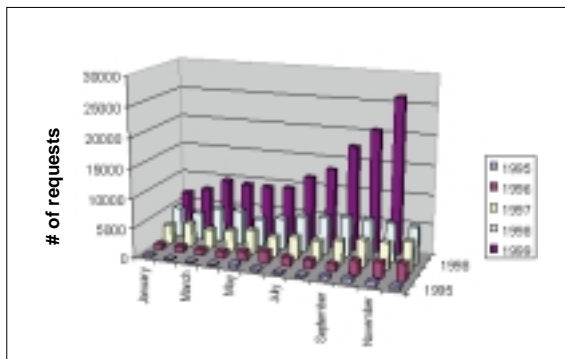


Figure 1: Number of HTML requests on ISPRS server per month (January 1995 - November 1999).

ISPRS Highlights will now be available from GITC bv at



GITC

US\$ 28 per year
(for individuals who belong to an ISPRS member organisation)

US\$ 35 per year
(for non-members)

Please contact GITC's subscription department for more details or e-mail: martina.sonsma@gitc.nl

To receive ISPRS Highlights you only have to send us the complete address (personal name, organisation name, address, city + postcode, country, phone, fax, e-mail, date, signature) together with the (details of) payment. You can pay by credit card (number, expiry date, signature) or by mailing to GITC by separate post (cheque, postal order, international money order, evidence of bankdraft). The delivery of the magazine will start after receipt of payment.