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## Navigating the publishing landscape in times of revolutionary changes

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## **Editorial: Navigating the Publishing Landscape in Times of Revolutionary Changes**

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### **Significant Growth**

The ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing is the official journal of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). The Journal provides a communication channel for scientists and professionals in all countries working in the many disciplines that use photogrammetry, remote sensing, spatial information systems, computer vision, and related fields. The Journal is designed to serve as a reference source and archive of advancements in these disciplines.

The 2015-2023 period saw rapid growth for the Journal in terms of submitted and published papers and impact. Since 2015, the number of submitted manuscripts has increased nearly 3.5 times. The number of submissions for 2024 follows this trend. Published articles increased from 187 in 2015 to 278 in 2023, yielding a nearly 50% increase.

The Impact Factor (IF) has been growing steadily, from 4.188 in 2015 to 12.7 in 2022, reflecting a healthy, sustained growth in both content and impact. As a society journal, the ISPRS Journal has an obligation to publish on all topics within its scope. We believe that there is a need to maintain a high standard for the content and to continue to grow the IF. We see it as a challenge to be proactive towards significant contributions and theme issues, and recognize the importance of support from our readers, authors, reviewers, the editorial team, and the ISPRS leadership. We look forward to continuing a proactive collaboration with each of you to maintain the Journal as a flagship journal in the fields of photogrammetry, remote sensing, spatial information systems, computer vision, and related fields.

### **Continuous Improvements**

Building on strong traditions and the significant impact that the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing is enjoying, the editorial team is now working on the following important developments to better serve the community of photogrammetry, remote sensing, spatial information systems, computer vision, and related fields.

Publication time has been substantially shortened. The editorial time, web publication time, and print publication time have all decreased thanks to the efforts of the editorial team and reviewers, as well as the strong support of the Elsevier staff. The average article handling time (from

submission to first decision) improved from 13 to 8.8 weeks, while both web publication time (33 to 25 weeks) and print publication time (42 to 30 weeks) have also been substantially reduced. Author satisfaction reflected in Elsevier's author survey is positive in all evaluation categories (reputation, reviewing standard and speed, IF, production speed, and others). The Journal offers authors the option to publish their research via subscription (without Article Publishing Charge) or open access (OA). The percentage of OA papers has increased to 29% in 2023.

The Journal has recently created a panel of 3-5 senior Editorial Advisory Board members for academic ethics/plagiarism/dual submission cases. The panel will assist the EiCs and the Publisher in dealing with difficult ethics/plagiarism cases.

### **New Forms of Scholarship**

With advancements in technology, innovation, and modern communications, the way research results are presented is undergoing significant changes. The number of papers in our fields is also steadily increasing both in conferences and journals, leading to a significant amount of literature being produced rapidly. New forms of research results and new trends in scientific communications are emerging with big data and AI. Some new trends in science communications include social media, short communications, commentaries, and the narration of science stories. These new forms of science communications help deliver scientific knowledge to a wider audience.

To support these technology-induced changes in science communications and to consider the behavioral change in readership (e.g., due to the use of big data on the relevancy of publications and automatic notifications of relevant publications on digital devices), the Editors-in-Chief have decided to create a third category of articles in the Journal, i.e., **perspective articles**. Below are our preliminary thoughts:

In recent years, the Journal has published many review articles. While these articles have contributed to the increased impact of the Journal, they are often lengthy with much bibliometric information or even scientometrics - the analysis of scientific metrics and indicators. While typical review articles assess progress in the frontiers of a sub-field and evaluate issues, methods, or techniques in the literature, they often focus on describing the current knowledge through statistics and descriptions. For perspective articles, **we are especially interested in those articles that can provide a vision for the ISPRS fields or sub-fields, suggest a new research direction, detect an emerging trend in the literature, or synthesize advances across multiple sub-fields of the Journal and beyond.** Perspective articles cannot be longer than 4,000 words, with 5 figures/tables and up to 50 references. Manuscripts that do not meet these criteria will be transferred to the category of review articles. We hope that this change will further 'modernize' the Journal and bring visibility and impact. The existing categories of research articles and review articles will remain unchanged. We propose to split Category 3 (i.e., Contributions for special journal columns) into two parts: a) perspective articles; and b) comments and editorials.