EDITORIAL

Journal of Real-Time Image Processing: sixth issue of volume 19

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In this sixth and final issue of volume 19 in 2022, two major changes that have occurred in the journal operation are noted.

As mentioned in the previous editorial, JRTIP has adopted a new publication model called Continuous Article Publishing (CAP). In this model, manuscripts that get accepted are immediately assigned to a next scheduled issue. JRTIP has six issues per year. Therefore, this means that within a two-month duration or less, the accepted manuscripts appear in an issue and consequently there would be practically no backlog of Online-First articles waiting to appear in an issue. The model that was in place before created a large backlog of accepted manuscripts waiting to appear in an issue. This change offers a major improvement as this new model effectively eliminates the wait time for authors between the acceptance of their manuscripts and the assignment of those manuscripts to issues.

Another major change which is currently in process in 2022 is the migration of the manuscript reviewing system from Editorial Manager (EM) to a new system called SNAPP developed by Springer Nature (Springer Nature's Article Processing Platform). All the manuscripts already in the EM system will continue to be processed in the EM system. However, new submissions to the journal starting in September 2022 will be processed in the new SNAPP system. The stages involved in the reviewing process of manuscripts (assigning associate editors, assigning reviewers, obtaining first round and possibly second round reviews, etc.) remain the same while for authors the submission steps in the two systems are different. It is worth noting that during the transition from the EM system to the SNAPP system, some delays could occur due to the learning curve associated with various features and options that are offered by the new SNAPP system.

In the editorial board meeting that occurred during the SPIE Conference on Real-Time Image Processing and Deep Learning in April 2022, steps that could be taken to keep the reviewing time of manuscripts below 3 months were discussed considering that the expectations of authors in terms of reviewing time of their manuscripts have changed in recent years. Many authors view for example 6 months of reviewing time to be too long and as a result their decisions in terms of which journal to submit their manuscripts are affected.

As a final item of this editorial, I would like to greatly appreciate the excellent contributions provided by Prof. Mohamed Akil and Prof. Antonio Nunez to JRTIP as associate editors since the inception of the journal 16 years ago. They have decided to step down as associate editors due to their retirements. Thank you Profs. Akil and Nunez for your service to JRTIP.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to authors, reviewers, editors in particular, and Springer publication and management teams for moving JRTIP forward in this transition year of changes.

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