EDITORIAL

There are many steps on the path to becoming the top online journal in a field. Firstly, one has to assess the need for yet another journal competing with existing journals for the best papers. JOSIS arose in response to a desire from the community, voiced at several conferences, to launch a new and different journal in the field. While a journal distributed through traditional commercial publishers would surely have been much easier to manage, the community's voice was loud and clear: open access. Then, a "business plan." We opted not only for online, but for non-fee. This obviously poses problems as web-hosting, archiving, DOIs, typesetting require significant investments of both money and time. Therefore, JOSIS relies on community involvement and volunteer contributions, e.g., through donations or the purchase of bound hard-copy journal issues (from which $5 returns to the journal). More details can be found on JOSIS web-page, josis.org.

Then, a journal must have an excellent and dedicated editorial board. Almost every eminent scientist we asked to become a board member enthusiastically accepted and embraced the idea. The resulting editorial board composition speaks for itself. However, because this is a community-driven journal, the editorial board is also actively involved in policy formulation and decision making. The editors-in-chief consult with the board on all important policies, and the members talk to other researchers in the field before giving valuable feedback.

As one specific example, the editorial board recently assisted with guidance on the question prior publications (where a final, polished journal article is submitted based on a revised or extended version of research already published at conference). In some disciplines, like computer science, prior publications are standard practice, based on the particular role the conferences play; in other disciplines that represented in the JOSIS community, prior publications are not encouraged. After engaged discussions between the editorial board members, a compromise was agreed, which you can find on the JOSIS web-page (http://josis.org/index.php/josis/about/editorialPolicies#custom4). In short, it was decided to allow JOSIS articles to be based on prior publications, as long as there is "significant additional benefit from publication" (i.e., a substantial amount of original and previously unpublished material in the JOSIS paper) and the relationship of the work to the prior publication is clearly identified in the JOSIS article. The first two accepted JOSIS articles to come under this policy are included in this issue [1, 2]. We believe these articles are excellent examples of the benefits of allowing prior publications: the substantial additional contributions of these articles are, we believe, clear; but as always with JOSIS, you the reader can make your own judgment.

The meat though of every journal is the quality of submissions, the editorial process, and the resulting published papers. JOSIS has been delivering on its promises in particular on reviewing quality, speed, and level of detail of comments provided to authors. The community is responding by submitting some of its best work. As a result, JOSIS features excellent articles accepted after a transparent, high-quality, timely reviewing process.

Authors also require that their work is widely accessible, highly visible, and frequently cited. JOSIS is already indexed in DOAJ, the directory of open access journals. Again with the assistance of the editorial board, we are pleased to be able to announce that JOSIS now appears in the list of journals referenced by DBLP (see http://www.informatik.uni-trier.de/ ley/db/journals/josis/index.html). DBLP is an important and long-running digital bibliography for computer science, having started in the 1980s. Soon we will be suggesting JOSIS for inclusion in Scopus ("the largest abstract and citation database of research literature ... covering more than 18,000 titles from more than 5,000 publishers") and Web of Science coverage. When approved, JOSIS papers (retroactively) will be even more visible and can easily be used in bibliometric studies, including the calculation of an author's H-index. Many universities, granting agencies, and governments already utilize such bibliometrics during their evaluation processes. Therefore, including JOSIS in such scientific databases is critical for our authors. We will also then approach Thompson Reuters' Web of Science (which "provides ... authoritative, multidisciplinary content [covering] over 12,000 of the highest impact journals worldwide, including open access journals"), and we expect that other indexes and databases will follow.

References

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[2] BUCHIN, M., DRIEMEL, A., VAN KREVELD, M., AND SACRISTÁN, V. Segmenting trajectories: A framework and algorithms using spatiotemporal criteria. *Journal of Spatial Information Science*, 3 (2011), 33–63. doi:10.5311/JOSIS.2010.3.66.

Jörg-Rüdiger Sack
Carleton University, Canada, December 2011