

Editor's Note

Thomas Ertl

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Starting in 2011, *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG)* is now following the new OnlinePlus publication model, which means that printed issues are no longer the standard means of journal distribution. By this step, which will eventually be taken by all IEEE Computer Society publications before 2015, a significant part of the increasing production cost can be saved and more content can be delivered to the readers for a reduced subscription price. In addition to journal access through the IEEE Computer Society Digital Library (CSDL), a quarterly booklet containing abstracts and an interactive disk containing all material on will be shipped to all OnlinePlus subscribers. Based on this model and, of course, because of the continuous increase of submitted and accepted papers, *TVCG* issues will now appear monthly with significantly more articles than in previous years.

As the year 2010 is almost over, I am happy to report that the journal continues to be in an excellent state as we move into the 17th year of its existence. Until the end of October 2010, *TVCG* received 260 regular submissions, even a few more than last year at the same time. Although we had a small decline in submissions to the conference issue containing the *Proceedings of the IEEE Visualization and Information Visualization 2010 Conferences* (down to 320 from 344), I expect again around 600 submissions to *TVCG* in total in 2010. In 2010, 150 articles were published: five regular issues with 66 papers and the sixth issue containing 83 conference papers, which all went through a rigorous two-round journal-quality review process.

Since nearly all papers submitted to *TVCG* in 2009 are already decided, I can also provide the final statistics for 2009. From the 600 submitted manuscripts (298 regular submissions, which is 40 percent more than in 2008), 156 were eventually accepted. The acceptance rate is 29 percent for the regular papers and for the papers submitted to the conference issue. In addition, 30 papers were accepted for special sections containing extended versions of best papers of various conferences, symposia, and workshops in the wide scope of *TVCG*. Naturally, only a few of these invited best papers did not get accepted, mainly because of not complying with our strict 30 percent rule regarding new content, material, and insight. *TVCG* continues to offer authors a remarkably fast processing of submitted manuscripts: the average time from submission to first decision is less than three months and the average time from submission to publication as a preprint in the digital library is less than seven months.

After a dramatic increase in the impact factor as published by Thomson Reuters from 1.6 in 2007 to 2.44 in 2008, the 2009 impact factor of *TVCG* saw a small decline down to 2.35. While such fluctuations are not always transparent due to changes in the databases used for counting references, *TVCG* remains clearly the top journal in visualization and the number two journal in computer graphics, in general. According to the Journal Citation Report, *TVCG* ranks eighth in the entire computer science software engineering category.

Looking forward into 2011, I hope that we can continue this positive development and attract even more readers and authors to *TVCG*. I encourage the visualization and computer graphics community to submit their latest and best research results to *TVCG* and experience a high-standard and timely reviewing process. I would like to thank the authors, reviewers, editors, and IEEE Computer Society staff who all have contributed to the success and growth of *TVCG* during 2010. I would especially like to thank the subscribers of this journal for their continued interest and support and I urge you to retain your personal subscription with the new OnlinePlus publication model. Let me remind you that, despite the enormous contributions of volunteers to the entire reviewing process, the production of a high-quality IEEE journal—even if not printed—cannot be done without professional staff. Please share with me your ideas for even better serving our subscribers in an electronic publishing age.

Thomas Ertl
Editor-in-Chief