

# From the Editor-in-Chief:

June 2014



## **Past, Present, and Future of JAIF**

In January 2014, I took over the role as Editor-in-Chief of this journal from William Dale Blair. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dale for serving as Editor-in-Chief for the past eight years and for his continuing professional, knowledgeable, and patient guidance of the editorial team, the technical editors, the authors, and the staff.

The Journal of Advances in Information Fusion (JAIF) was founded in 2006 as the flagship journal of the International Society of Information Fusion (ISIF) to serve the growing demand for high-quality publications of information fusion methods. JAIF is an open-source, peer-reviewed, semi-annual archival journal published electronically and distributed via the internet.

I think it is fair to say that so far we kept our promise on delivering high-quality publications. Beginning with the inaugural issue in July 2006, 17 issues have been published up to now that are freely available at <http://www.isif.org/journal>.

The quality of JAIF is maintained by high standards for the peer review process through an editorial board with strong academic and industrial backgrounds. Prior to publication, each manuscript requires a review from at least three referees and manuscript corrections that address any shortcoming identified by the referees and editors. A web-based review system at <http://jaif.msubmit.net> is used for handling the peer review of manuscripts electronically. This system facilitates the review of manuscripts for authors and archives the reviewers' comments and editorial decisions for all manuscripts.

Journal publications nowadays play an important role when it comes to evaluating the quality of individual researchers. Bibliometric indicators are increasingly used to rate scientific publications and the researchers who authored them. This is then used by employers such as universities, companies, and government organizations to make decisions about raises or promotions or funding decisions concerning grants. Fortunately, JAIF is now indexed at SCOPUS, so that research published at JAIF becomes more visible. At this point, I would like to thank our Administrative Editor Robert Lynch for his relentless effort on getting the journal indexed, which is known to be a tedious and lengthy process.

In the future, we seek to increase the number of submissions to the journal, so that it might eventually be possible to publish four issues per year instead of two without compromising the paper quality. This will hopefully happen automatically as more and more potential authors appreciate the quality of JAIF. In addition, we will make the journal more interesting by encouraging special issue proposals.

Special issues of JAIF are intended to cover a topic of special interest in the area of information fusion. Potential guest editors should submit a formal proposal for expressing their desire to organize a special issue. Formally, these proposals should provide the biographical information of the guest editors, the motivation for the special issue, a general call for contributed papers to the

special issue, a candidate list of papers with authors for direct invitation, and a schedule for delivery and review of the papers for the special issue. Typically, one or two guest editors will be responsible for the special issues, and they will be supported by a small team of predefined reviewers in order to expedite the review process.

Finally, I hope that I convinced you that JAIF is a high-quality journal dedicated to research on information fusion methods. So, if you have the feeling that your material could meet the journal's standards, please consider submitting it to JAIF.

Uwe D. Hanebeck  
Editor-in-Chief