



Editorial

Jack D. Gaskill, Editor

The Review Process

I suppose it is rather obvious that without authors there would be no journal to publish, and without readers there would be no need to publish it. What is perhaps less obvious is that without a solid corps of qualified referees as well, it would be highly unlikely that a journal of high quality could be published at all. Because of the importance of the review process, I have chosen it as the subject for this editorial column.

The selection of referees is the first action an editor must take after receiving a manuscript, and it is also the most important. The ideal referee is highly knowledgeable in the specific area of the paper, has no significant conflict of interest regarding the paper, and is able to provide an objective and constructive review of it. In addition, this ideal person is willing to serve and will do so in a professional and timely fashion. Referees are selected for *Optical Engineering* as follows: I first identify several potential reviewers for each manuscript that I receive, and Martha Stockton, my Associate Editor, then contacts as many of these individuals as necessary in order to obtain two who are as nearly ideal as possible.

I know from personal experience that many individuals dread being asked to review a technical paper only slightly less than they dread getting an audit notice from the Internal Revenue Service. I also know that there are individuals who welcome requests to serve as a referee as long as they don't get too many. In any event, a good review takes time, and time is a scarce commodity for most people. Consequently, I make the following pledge: I will try to refrain from asking anyone to review more than one manuscript per year, and I will attempt to make the reviewing process as simple and as painless as possible.

As an author, you can help keep the level of pain associated with the reviewing process to a minimum by adhering to a few basic rules. To begin with, you should follow the instructions outlined in "Information for Contributors to *Optical Engineering*" on the page preceding this editorial. In addition, you should be able to answer yes to each of the following questions. Does this paper make a contribution to the field? Is it well organized? Is it easy to read? Are you proud of it? Will the figures reproduce well? If asked to serve as a referee for your own paper, would you find it to be a reasonably painless task? Would you be able to give it a good review? If the answer to any of these questions is no, I would suggest that you revise the manuscript before submitting it; don't expect more from another reviewer than you would expect from yourself.

One last request—let me know if you would like to serve as a referee for *Optical Engineering*, and please indicate the areas in which you feel qualified to do so.

OPTICAL ENGINEERING EDITORIAL SCHEDULE

November/December 1985

3-D Sensing for Inspection

Donald Sweeney
Sandia National Labs.
MS ORG8354
Livermore, CA 94550
415/422-3138

Timothy C. Strand
IBM Research Lab.
K46/282
5600 Cottle Rd.
San Jose, CA 95193
408/284-8919

Spectral Pattern Recognition

O. I. Sindoni
USAMCCOM, CRDC,
Research Directorate
Physics Div.
SMCCR-RSP-B
Bldg. E5951
Aberdeen Proving
Ground, MD 21010
301/671-4256

Donald S. Frankel
Aerodyne Research, Inc.
45 Manning Road
Billerica, MA 01821
617/663-9500

January 1986

Optical Computing

Raymond Arrathoon
Wayne State University
Dept. of Electrical & Computer Eng.
701 W. Warren
Detroit, MI
313/577-3738

February 1986

Materials and Devices for Optical Information Processing

Cardinal Warde
M.I.T.
Room 13-3134
Cambridge, MA 02139
617/253-6858

Uzi Efron
Hughes Research Labs.
M.S. RL69
3011 Malibu Canyon Rd.
Malibu, CA 90265
213/317-5214

March 1986

Applications of Artificial Intelligence

Mohan M. Trivedi
Louisiana State Univ.
Dept. of Electrical and
Computer Engineering
Baton Rouge,
LA 70803-5901
504/388-5241

John F. Gilmore
Georgia Tech Research
Institute
Artificial Intelligence Branch
Atlanta, GA 30332
404/894-3471

April 1986

Optics for the Space Station

Henry Lum
Information Sciences, Code SI
Mail Stop 244-7
NASA Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035
415/694-6544