

XV Congress
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING (ISPRS)
Rio de Janeiro 1984

ENDEAVOURS OF ISPRS ON THE SUBJECTS OF
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
AND PERIODICALS

Report of Working Group VI - 6

Prof. Dr. J. Hothmer
Chairman WG VI - 6
Fachhochschule Mainz, FR Germany

A B S T R A C T

An account is given on attempts of Working Group VI - 6 to promote journals and other publications. The present state of implementing Regional International Periodicals (RIP) on Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing is outlined. The report covers the period August 1980 - March 1984.

1 Preliminaries

The trend in our era seems to be that an increasing quantity is published, yet little is read. The main concern of WG VI - 6 was to counteract this evolution, for publishing without reading does not make much sense.

Whereas industrialized countries suffer being submerged with printed material, former developing nations do often not dispose on a professional communication media of their own. This may be one out of several reasons for again widening the technological gap between former developing countries and industrialized nations. An international Society should feel an obligation to carry its share for preventing that.

UNESCO and the Commission of the European Communities are quite engaged for more efficiency in scientific publishing and its use. Somewhat of these endeavours should reflect on ISPRS. WG VI - 6 attempted to do so for the preceding Symposium and for this Congress.

A letter has been mailed on 01 January 1983 to the Presidents and to the respective Commission Presidents of the Sister Societies, viz. the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) advocating to co-operate in mutual affairs, inter alia on scientific - technical communication, with the proposal to convene 1985 an Inter - Society - Symposium on this topic. There was oral support but no definite reply has been received. One property is that the Sister Societies, in contrast to ISPRS, are not structured so as to have an officer being particularly responsible for this topic.

The General Assembly approved 1980 formation of a ISPRS Publications Policy Committee. An outcome was the excellent paper of its Chairman (THOMPSON 1982). Co-operation with WG VI - 6 was always very good, although there may be some overlap. I therefore recommend to interested readers to study the report of the Chairman of this Committee to be submitted to the General Assembly 1984 which is supposed to be printed in Part A of our ISPRS Archive 1984.

2 Attempts to implement R I P s

WG VI - 6 followed resolution T VI / 5 , having been approved at the XIV ISPRS Congress 1980 urging Commission VI that consideration be given to the possible implementation of Regional International Periodicals (RIP) on Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

The basic concept inherent to a Regional International Periodical (RIP) on Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing has been published by HOTHMER 1980. Offprints of annotated Guidelines with comments from 12 distinguished colleagues from all continents are still available from the author. Some features of RIP are :

- + R I P s should be implemented for geographic regions such as Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, East Europe, and West Europe;
- + Participation of any country wishing to do so;
- + Participating national societies subscribe for all their members and replace their national journal by the RIP;
- + Participating countries are themselves responsible for their own RIP, and decide themselves on policies and procedures, and on appointment of officers running the periodical;
- + The Journal shall be attractive to as many members of national societies of photogrammetry and remote sensing as is possible;
- + RIP shall be of high professional quality;
- + Tailor made Guidelines are available to guarantee smooth co-operation of various nations.

R I P Africa

23 colleagues from 19 African countries attended a meeting on 23 July 1980 at the Congress Hamburg. They agreed that Mr. Boualga, Secretary General of the African Association of Cartography (AAC), be invited to act as Initiator for RIP Africa. The President Commission VI requested Mr. Boualga on 22 October 1980 accordingly. The AAC responded on 17 May 1982 and stated that their Executive Committee did not agree to this appointment. No substitute was named.

A letter was mailed on 11 March 1982 to all 36 African countries outlining that an African periodical will be of great benefit for the continent. Two responses were received from Nigeria. Dr. Ayeni from Lagos University was invited on 28 September 1983 to prepare a paper on the present state of periodicals in Africa for the Congress 1984 in Rio de Janeiro. He confirmed on 12 December 1983.

R I P Asia

Representatives from 23 countries had been invited to discuss the subject on 23 July 1980 at the Congress Hamburg. The meeting resolved to implement RIP Asia with Prof. J. Rais as Initiator. On his appointment, and on follow-up letters, no response was ever received.

A letter was mailed on 11 March 1982 to all Asia/Pacific countries outlining that ISPRS can stimulate something, and can produce ideas, however specific tasks within the region must be tackled by the people themselves. One outcome was a paper for our Symposium stating clearly that India is capable and willing to produce RIP Asia alone. ISPRS has just to transfer the necessary money. This author, obviously, did not digest the RIP - Guidelines.

At the South East Asian Conference on Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Education held in May 1983 in Malaysia, an ad hoc Committee, initiated by Prof. Wicha Jilawai from Chulalongkorn University of Bangkok, discussed enthusiastically the issue of publications. Taking notice that the Asian Regional Remote Sensing Training Centre at the Asian Institut of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok started producing a Newsletter, the ad hoc Committee recommended to include also photogrammetry, with Prof. Wicha as co-editor for this field, and to consider this Newsletter as a first step towards a RIP Asia. The AIT representative agreed. The ad hoc Committee further recommended that each country of Asia shall set up its own editorial board to act as official channel to release and receive news or informations to be published in the Newsletter. Meanwhile, I received the first issue of the Newsletter, however no outcomes of the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee can be identified therein.

The subject of RIP Asia has been discussed intensively on 28 February 1984 at the Technical University Wuhan. Particular emphasis was on the problem of different languages. The chinese colleagues are looking quite favourable on RIP Asia proposing to include some of their highly qualified articles in English which are published so far only in Chinese in their periodicals Acta Geodetica Sinica, or Cehui Tongbao, or Journal of Wuhan Technical University.

Mr. Villanueva of Indonesia was invited on 18 January 1983 to prepare a paper for the Congress Rio de Janeiro 1984 on the state of publications in Asian countries. His substantive reply of 15 January 1984 indicates that he is most engaged to implement RIP Asia/Pacific.

RIP Latin America

Representatives from all participating countries had been invited on 23 July 1980 at The Congress Hamburg to discuss the subject. Ing. A. Villasana of México was approved as Initiator RIP Latin América. Several letters were exchanged with him, yet the matter could not be finalized before his retirement.

Ing. G. Luthe Garcia from México has been invited to prepare the paper for the Congress Rio de Janeiro 1984 on the state of publications in Latin American countries. He confirmed on 21 November 1983.

RIP North America

The well known journal Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing is more or less a RIP North America. Consequently, there is hardly any need for a change.

M. M. Thompson will prepare the paper for the Congress Rio de Janeiro 1984 on the state of publications in North America.

RIP West Europe

This geographical region is perhaps the most striking example for the impact of a RIP. Several national journals do exist, and it seems to be unrealistic to imagine that, for example, serious photogrammetrists and remote sensing

specialists from the USA subscribe to all of them, whereas they certainly would do so assuming there is, instead, just one RIP West Europe. All these national periodicals have a small print run. Merging them into one journal would raise the print run with the effect that an individual paying at present subscription for one national journal can get for the same amount of money the content of all national journals in a RIP West Europe (HOTHMER 1983).

However, at the present time implementation of RIP West Europe seems to be hardly possible. National feelings, apparently, weigh heavier compared to international co-operation on a regional basis. Some details are:

- + A British colleague responded it is not feasible to reduce the number of existing periodicals through establishing a RIP as there are not too many journals. Yet, the facts are that there are just in this one country separated periodicals on photogrammetry and remote sensing. One single issue of the remote sensing journal alone costs the fortune of \$ 35,-. I wonder who can afford that. As an example, at my university in Germany we do not have that much money. And colleagues from developing countries will certainly be excluded from participating in achievements being published in that journal. In my capacity as officer of ISPRS I have to oppose strongly. This is no mode of international co-operation.
- + There is little international response to the French periodical although it includes many most valuable scientific accomplishments. Much positive oral support on the impact of RIP was received from French individuals, however no reply from French institutions.

Stewart Walker has prepared the paper for the Congress Rio de Janeiro 1984 on the state of publications in West Europe.

No response was received from East European countries on the issue of a RIP East Europe, nor on the state of publications in this geographical region.

3 Preparation and outcomes of the Symposium 1982

An outline was circulated in December 1981 inviting prospective speakers to tackle topics of concern (see Appendix) at the midterm Symposium of Commission VI having been convened in September 1982 in Mainz.

Two sessions were devoted at the Symposium to subjects of WG VI - 6. The following papers were presented:

- + The Role of Publications in Scientific Communication as we Approach the Year 2000: Trends in its Achievements. - This paper of UNESCO is somewhat static minded.
- + Scientific Communication in Surveying and Mapping Including Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Facing the Year 2000. - This paper is more dynamic minded and includes issues to possibly solve problems in our era.
- + A Publications Policy for ISPRS. - This is an excellent contribution constituting a basis for further work.
- + Merits of an International Journal Compared to Regional International Periodicals (RIP). - An addendum to the foregoing paper.
- + Two papers on Delivering National Reports at ISPRS Congresses.-Including proposals to improve the use of these reports.

A most substantive discussion was followed with contributions from 12 speakers from all continents. The minutes and all papers have been printed in the proceedings (HOTHMER 1982). Some outcomes are:

- + More lucid views on the ISPRS publications policy evolved, particularly regarding the ISPRS Bulletin (to be dropped), regarding PHOTOGRAMMETRIA as Official Journal ISPRS (to be retained), and regarding the ISPRS Archive.
- + The ISPRS Council agreed on the proposals on National Reports.
- + Relating to our assignment of information exchange, the ISPRS President agreed to the proposal of Commission VI to devote the last scientific session at the Congress Rio de Janeiro 1984 to the topic of TRENDS in photogrammetry and remote sensing.

4 Preparation of the Congress Rio de Janeiro 1984

The Board of Commission VI was in session on 25 September 1982 and recommended that WG VI -6 continue in the same mode as before. In pursuance with this mandate, an outline has been circulated in September 1983 to prepare for the Congress anticipating to have the following invited papers :

- + Practicable Approaches to Cope with Periodicals and the Grey Literature in our Era of Information Explosion. - Having had an author from UNESCO on a similar key note topic at the Symposium 1982, we invited a specialist from the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), taking into account that this international organization has already developed constructive contributions to the problem. The paper could not be materialized due to change of assignment of the speaker within CEC.
- + Electronic Journals, a Futuristic Approach to Disseminate Professional Accomplishments. - This new system originates from USA and, hence, President Doyle and Chairman PPC Thompson were requested to allocate an author. Unfortunately, we will not have a paper on this topic. Therefore, some information is added here, based on SCIENCE, 28 May 1982, pp 964-968.

Frederick Plotkin introduced in 1982 the first in a projected family of 22 electronic journals. Submission of manuscripts are supposed to be stored in a computer within 6-8 weeks. They will be accessible online via telephone. Plotkin expects that some 1.4 mio scientists in North America will use this facility. The inherent property is to speed up communication, and that corresponds to an urgent need of our era. At the present time, the effect of this new mode on scientific journals can hardly be predicted.

- + Present State of Periodicals and other Series Publications on Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in . . . with an Outlook into the Next Decade. - These papers have been mentioned in the preceding part whilst having discussed implementation of RIPs.
- + The Future of PHOTOGRAMMETRIA as Official ISPRS Periodical; Considerations of the Publisher. - There were quite some preparatory discussions on this paper with the effect that this author elaborated on the topic. He was mandated by the President ISPRS, and by the outgoing Chief Editor, and by the Publisher to organize continuity of the journal.

5 Concluding remarks

At the present time, my feeling is that many people are proud of publishing much. They try to close at least one eye and at least one ear regarding whether it will ever be read. The audience is invited to test, as an example, how many papers from the preceding Congress Hamburg were used when having prepared for the forthcoming Congress Rio de Janeiro. The result was at least disappointing for the proceedings of the Congress Hamburg 1980 regarding the foregoing Congress Helsinki 1976.

Whenever something can be done for the better in the future, then not only co-operation but even active engagement of other Commissions of ISPRS is indispensable, for Commission VI has just a servicing function.

After eight years of commitment of myself to the subject of scientific communication, little has been accomplished. If it were only the awareness that publishing without reading does not make much sense, then it is already something.

6 Literature references

- Hothmer, J. 1980: Regional International Periodicals (RIP) on Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. IN: International Archive of Photogrammetry, 23-B6, pp 112 - 124, Hamburg 1980
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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING
INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR PHOTOGRAMMETRIE UND FERNERKUNDUNG
SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DE PHOTOGRAMMETRIE ET DE TELEDETECTION

COMMISSION VI

Economics, Professional Aspects, Education, Periodicals, Terminology, Bibliography, History, International Exchange of Information

Working Group VI - 6 : Periodicals

O U T L I N E 12.81

1. The scope of this Outline is to prepare sessions at our Symposium, 22 - 25 September 1982 in Mainz, on the topic

The Role of Periodicals Facing the Year 2000.

It is a cooperative venture with the ISP Publications Policy Committee.

2. We anticipate to have the following Invited Papers (appr. 20 minutes each) :

2.1 Basic treatment of the theme

"The Role of Periodicals in Scientific Communication Facing the Year 2000 Including Trends to Achieve that Function".

This subject can be covered with a broad view not necessarily bound to our professional field. We plan to have different papers on the theme with emphasis on

- 2.1.1 worldwide aspects,
- 2.1.2 european aspects,
- 2.1.3 other aspects (proposals are welcome).

2.2 Treatment of our professional field for regions on the theme

" Present State of Periodicals and other Series Publications on Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in . . . with an Outlook into the Next Decade ",

one paper each covering Africa, North America, Latin America, Asia/Pacific and Europe.

2.3 The future of 'Photogrammetria' as official organ of ISP.

2.4 Policies for, and implementation of an ISP Bulletin.

3. Some few ideas on the basic treatment :

- + The number of scientific - technical periodicals (presently some 300 000) is continuously increasing, whereas the willingness of people to read decreases.
- + Industrialized countries are overflowed with printed material. Yet, the capacity of readers is exhausted.
- + Increasingly, previous publications are often not referenced and considered when preparing a new paper. That is a waste of efforts.
- + What is the use of publishing if the content is not read nor digested ?

-2-

Secretary 1980-1984
DIPL. ING. H. KANTELHARDT
Landesvermessungsamt
Wiesbaden
Tel. 06121 535343

President 1980-1984
PROF. DR. J. HOTHMER
Fachhochschule
Mainz
Tel. 06196 3581

Adress
COMMISSION VI ISP
Rheinlandstraße 19
D 6231 Schwalbach
FR Germany



TO:

SUBJECT: Outline on Periodicals

DATE: 12.81

- + Some famous periodicals exist already for hundred years without having changed basically. Is it feasible changing something for better adoption to the needs of the years 2000 (eg synopsis and microfiche instead of lengthy and paper consuming publications) ?
- + Anticipating our era demands for international cooperation to prevent duplication of research efforts: Would it be feasible to have one single international periodical, or some few journals covering each a different region ?
- + What will be the role of national periodicals ? Providing information on and stimulation of application of new technologies for the welfare of that country ?
- + Former developing nations do often not dispose on a periodical of their own. This may be one out of several reasons for again widening the technological gap between former developing nations and industrialized countries. Shall and can something be recommended to prevent that ?

4. Some few ideas on the regional treatment :

- + A listing of all periodicals and series publications should be presented providing indicative figures according to the questionnaire as attached.
- + Is it felt that cooperation between neighbouring countries, and/or in the region, and/or internationally should be stimulated, and by what modes could periodicals contribute ?
- + What are the expectations for 1990, and for the year 2000, taking also into account some of the ideas for the basic treatment.

5. References

- + Previous accomplishments of Commission VI on the subject of periodicals have been published in "International Archive of Photogrammetry, Vol. XXIII, Part B, Pages 112 - 126, Hamburg 1980";
- + Bildmessung und Luftbildwesen, 1980, pp 120 - 122;
- + First Circular Commission VI ISP, Appendix 3, page 4, August 1981.