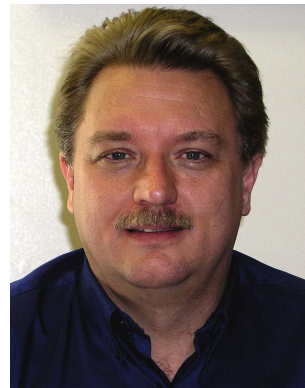# From the Editor-in-Chief:

June 2013

Content Indexing Comes to JAIF

The original vision for JAIF was to become the flagship peer-reviewed journal of the International Society for Information Fusion (ISIF). A key goal along the road to that vision involved content indexing. Content indexing of JAIF is important to our authors because other researchers can find their papers and reference them in their own publications. These references to one's publications are used to measure the impact of one's research, and the corresponding "impact factor" is often a key component of the nomination for IEEE Fellow and other research honors and evaluations for tenured faculty positions and other similar positions. Thus, content indexing of JAIF has been a focus of the editorial board of JAIF since its inception. As Editor-In-Chief (EIC) for JAIF, I am pleased to announce that Scopus accepted JAIF for content indexing as of July 29, 2013. Scopus statements accompanying their decision to accept JAIF for content indexing were a "convincing journal policy" and "fulfillment of the criteria for inclusion in Scopus." **Scopus** is a bibliographic database containing abstracts and citations for academic journal articles. It covers over 50 million entries for nearly 21,000 titles from over 5,000 publishers, of which 20,000 are peer-reviewed journals in the scientific, technical, medical, and social sciences (including arts and humanities). Therefore, authors of articles in JAIF are now assured that their research will receive broad exposure and citations as appropriate.

In preparing JAIF for content indexing, a strong editorial board of researchers from both industry and academia was organized and an operation plan that addressed the need for a rigorous and meaningful peer review process was put into place. Another important factor that contributes to the decision for content indexing is the regular and timely publication of the journal. This was a challenge in the first few issues of JAIF. As time progressed, the editorial board charged Robert "Bob" Lynch to address this weakness in the journal. Bob has led that charge for the past few years and accomplished this goal. JAIF is now a peer-reviewed journal with indexed content. ISIF certainly owes Bob Lynch a great thank you for all of this hard and successful work. *Thank you Bob.*

Well, what is the next step toward the ISIF vision for JAIF? That step involves a large increase in the number of submissions to JAIF. Without more submissions, JAIF cannot have the impact desired by ISIF and its Vice President (VP) for Publications, Yaakov Bar-Shalom. Toward that goal, the editorial board has identified three actions. First, the news of content indexing for JAIF will be broadcast broadly to the research community that includes ISIF members and others who have attended the International Conference on Information Fusion. Second, the VP for Publications, Yaakov Bar-Shalom, will contact academic departments associated with information fusion and inform them of the acceptance of JAIF into Scopus. Third, the editorial board for JAIF will take extra measures to reduce the time required for the rigorous peer review of JAIF to three months. Through these three actions, JAIF should experience an increase in the number of submissions as researchers need to publish articles in a timely manner and achieve a higher impact factor for promotions, applications for new positions, and nominations for honors such as IEEE Fellow.

William Dale Blair
Editor in Chief