JOURNAL OF SPATIAL INFORMATION SCIENCE
Number 13 (2016), p. 1 doi:10.5311/JOSIS.2016.13.329

EDITORIAL

In issue 13 we welcome Prof Ross Purves, University of Zurich, to the JOSIS editorial team as a new JOSIS Editor in Chief. Ross is already well-known to the JOSIS and GI science community. Ross has made significant contributions over the last decade in the area of geographic information retrieval, bringing a geographic perspective to retrieving both text and images. His research has been influential, for example, in shaping how notions of place can productively be used to improve search.

Ross' addition as a JOSIS EIC is a first step of a carefully planned program of succession for the JOSIS editorial team. Over the coming months, Ross will take over the editorial leadership of the journal, with new EIC coming in to support him. Right from JOSIS' inception, the founding EIC of Matt Duckham, Mike Worboys, and Jörg-Rüdiger Sack always regarded succession as an important milestone for a community, open-access journal such as JOSIS. Transitioning to a new editorial team clearly demonstrates the stability of the journal, and its long-term independence from any particular individual.

This succession means the founding editors have now begun to make that transition. Founding editor Jörg-Rüdiger Sack will step down from the JOSIS EIC within the coming 12 months, with Matt Duckham stepping down within the next 24 months, if not sooner. Although these time-frames for succession are long, they are designed to ensure stability and a pathway for preservation of complete knowledge of the journal's processes, policies, and procedures.

Indeed, this means that in issue 13 we must also say thank you to Mike Worboys, who is the first founding editor to step down from the JOSIS EIC. Mike has helped steer the journal successfully through its first 7 years and 13 issues. Mike's passion and commitment to the nascent open-source movement a decade ago was the key driver behind the establishment of JOSIS, the first board-coverage open-access journal in the field of GI science. Without Mike, there would surely have been no JOSIS. On behalf of the whole JOSIS community, thank you Mike for your wonderful and lasting contribution. We look forward to what you have helped start continuing for many years into the future.

Matt Duckham
RMIT University, Melbourne

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