STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The *International Journal of Virtual Reality* is a multimedia publication dedicated to the cooperative development and application of diverse technologies associated with virtual reality. It is designed to disseminate relevant new information to professionals in all aspects of the field using the latest in publishing technology.

Each issue consists of a printed paper edition and accompanying CD-ROM edition, the latter accessed via all common platforms. The CD-ROM not only contains a complete electronic edition of the printed portion with hypertext and string search, but also contains graphics, animations, color photographs, sound and movie clips, and useful computer software that authors submit to enhance their articles and demonstrate their results. Other means of disseminating the information will also be explored, particularly as the technology develops.

The IJVR will also endeavor to support the development of virtual reality technology by any appropriate means. This includes such things as publishing standards and a directory of human resources.

NEW IN THE IJVR

For those who are reading the paper issue of the IJVR, the notice of a new lower subscription price should be evident. I mention it primarily because readers of the CD-ROM and World Wide Web might miss it. Since the financial projections were originally drawn up for the journal, the CD-ROM development and duplication prices have dropped drammatically. We are thus passing on those savings to our subscribers, both new and current.

We are proud to announce that this issue of the IJVR contains a multiplatform CD-ROM that uses HTML for the basic file format. This means that the CD-ROM can be read on a Windows platform, a Macintosh platform, or an Xwindows (UNIX) platform, and the reader has the choice to use his or her own Web browser such as Netscape with the CD-ROM as well as use one of the MOSAIC programs included on the CD-ROM.[1] For more information, read *How to use the CD-ROM* in this issue.

Along with the CD-ROM as a medium for distributing our content, we have set up a World Wide Web site (ijvr.uccs.edu) that contains various portions of the journal. However, it includes only the abstracts of the research articles because we fear that we would loose our subscriptions income if we were to provide the full articles free of charge over the Internet. Our current mode of delivery of those articles is to deliver an entire copy of the IJVR to the requester at $25.00. The cost may seem a little steep for a single article, but keep in mind it includes all the multimedia. If the article does not contain the multimedia enhancements, or if the multimedia enhancements are not of interest to the requester, a copy of the article can be obtained through interlibrary loan. Various major libraries around the world subscribe to the IJVR.

We decided to throw in our lot with the HTML language because, even though HTML is primitive at the momemt, we expect extremely rapid development of it or related languages due to its importance on the Internet. Already we see such things as JAVA and VRML, which greatly expand on HTML.

Finally, the IJVR is embarking on a project to form a directory of professionals in the field of virtual reality. Our experience is that there exists no listing of names that is even close to comprehensive, and we feel that it is badly needed. We encourage you to fill out the form called **dirform.txt** on the enclosed CD-ROM or the anonymous ftp function associated with of our Web site, **ijvr.uccs.edu**, and return it to that site. In the future we shall start publishing the directory on the CD-ROM accompanying each issue and possibly the Web site.

---

[1] We tried, but were unsuccessful, in obtaining permission to distribute the Netscape browser on the CD-ROM. However, it can be downloaded free from the ftp site **ftp.netscape.com**.