Technical Committee on Visualization and Computer Graphics (VGTC) Annual Report for 2013

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This is a wiki-style Google-Drive report accessible to all members of the VGTC Executive Committee. It will freeze on 2/28/2014 which is one month before the annual report to the VGTC membership is typically due. In this evolving report, all VGTC members may post corrections, comments, and questions at any time. Please mark these contributions with your name or non-ambiguous initials. I will visit the report periodically and then follow up on any remarks via the appropriate channel. You can still send me email if you believe your concern is urgent and needs to be addressed promptly. Since this is an open document a certain amount of etiquette is expected. In particular, please do not modify the existing report text directly. And also, please do not forward the URL to non-members without my agreement (it is accessibly to VGTC ExCom members only).

Before I begin I want to thank all VGTC ExCom appointed officers for their tremendous voluntary services. The following individuals headed special initiatives for which I want to give my special thanks:

- Online communities chair Chris Collins for his creative vision and his tremendous efforts on the vgtc.org website and for introducing the VGTC Scholars program
- (De-fact) publications chair Meghan Haley for being everywhere at once and putting out all those little (and sometimes not so little) fires – web, publishing, videotaping, and social calendar
- Finance chair Loretta Auvil for keeping a trustful eye on our finances and helping me navigate this thick jungle
- Webmaster Daniel Acevedo-Feliz for emailing the magic word 'done' lighting fast
- (Former) publications chair Torsten Möller for his relentless drive to make our papers available to the general community, outside the confines of the IEEE Digital Library.

In addition, many thanks to our vice-chair for conferences, Mark Livingston for helping VGTC keep in touch with the VR and ISMAR communities and for being always available for discussions of many sorts. Congratulations and thanks to Vice-Chair Rachael Brady who, very much deserved, won the IEEE Meritorious Service Certificate this year. A great thank-you also goes to IEEE TVCG EIC Ming Lin for her relentless efforts in establishing and maintain the VIS, VR, and possibly ISMAR TVCG special issues. Pak Chung Wong (and David Kasich and John Dill), while not members on the VGTC ExCom, have done it an invaluable service by introducing the Visualization Pioneers Group under which auspices we held our first doctoral dissertation award program.

Sponsored Venues

In 2013, VGTC has financially sponsored five conferences and technically co-sponsored four other conferences and symposia. The table below presents a summary.

Acronym	Full name	URL	Sponsor level
VIS	VAST, INFOVIS, SCIVIS	http://ieeevis.org/	100%
VR / 3D UI	Virtual Reality / 3D User Interfaces	http://ieeevr.org/	100%
ISMAR	Mixed and Augmented Reality	http://ismar.vgtc.org/	100%
Pacific Vis	Pacific Visualization	http://www.pvis.org/	100%
Eurovis	European Conf. on Visualization	http://www.eurovis2013.de/	33%
ICAT	Conf. Artificial Reality & Telexistence	http://www.ic-at.org/	Technical
ISWC	Symp. on Wearable Computers	http://www.iswc.net/	Technical

UBICOMP	Conf. Pervasive & Ubiquitous Comp.	http://www.ubicomp.org/	Technical
VISIGRAPP	Conf. on Computer Vision, Imaging and Computer Graphics Theory and Applications	http://www.visigrapp.org/	Technical
BigDataVis	1st Workshop on Big Data Visualization	http://vis.ucdavis.edu/Workshops/BigDataVis2013/	Technical

Budget

A budget of a given year is determined by the financial performance (gains/losses) of the sponsored conferences two years ago. This is because conferences are asked to financially close 6 months after the conference ends, and then it takes IEEE some more time to do an internal review. So if a conference occurs in December in year X, its gains/losses are not officially stated until year X+2.

Hence, our 2013 budget was determined by the financial performance of VIS, VR, ISMAR, Pacific Vis, and Eurovis in 2011. It turns out that in 2011 these conferences were financially very successful, possibly the most successful ever. This gave VGTC the unprecedented sum of $65k to work with. After subtracting $14k for the usual expenses (travel to T&C, VGTC meetings, and technical awards at VR and VIS), it allowed VGTC to sponsor several major activities which are outlined further below.

The 2014 budget will likely not be as high as the one in 2013, but it will still be solid. The numbers so far indicate that it might be around $35k, primarily due to the very strong surplus of VIS 2012 and the fairly strong surplus of VR 2012.

To expand the outlook into 2015, we need to look at the performance of the 2013 conferences. The table below shows the conferences sponsored in 2013 along with their chairs, venues, and attendance where known.

Acronym	General Chair(s)	Venue	Attendees
VIS 2013	John Stasko (Georgia Tech)	Atlanta, GA	880
VR 2013	Benjamin Lok (U Florida), Greg Welch (U Central Florida)	Orlando, FL	390
ISMAR 2013	Mark Billinghurst (U Canterbury, New Zealand), Bruce Thomas (U South Australia)	Adelaide, AU	230
Pacific Vis 2013	Peter Eades (U Sydney), Hans Hagen (U Kaiserslautern, Germany)	Sidney, AU	70
Eurovis 2013	Gerik Scheuermann (U Leipzig, Germany)	Leipzig, GER	TBA

In 2013, the federal budget sequester likely had an effect on both the number of attendees and the industrial sponsorships. Nevertheless, it appears that VR as well as Pacific Vis had modest surpluses. ISMAR and VIS just convened their meetings. For VIS the government shutdown added to the budget sequester detriment and a reduction of 100-200 attendees was observed. This is a significant downfall, but last-minute cost cutting might have prevented a loss. The organizers of ISMAR do not believe that a loss has occurred. A special arrangement was made with Eurovis (see below). So all in all, while the budget of 2015 will likely turn out to be less generous than that of 2013, it will probably be significantly better than the dire budget of 2012 which suffered from the large $100k loss of VR 2010.

Activities and Initiatives

Facilitated by the generous budget, 2013 brought numerous new investments and initiatives. These are listed in the following, along with a list of existing issues and action plans where appropriate.

1. *Video capturing of all five financially sponsored conferences*

Providing a video archive of talks presented at VGTC conferences has been one of the most-requested features for the vgtc.org website. Since budget was available, the VGTC decided to invest $36k in the video capturing for all our financially sponsored conferences for 2013. The service was meant to be for free in 2013 only – as a proof and teaser to point out the service's merits and scope. Future years with possibly meager budgets would then ask the conferences to finance it.

In 2013, our long-term vendor Meghan Haley from Junction Publishing traveled to all five conferences and captured and synced the presentation projections and audio. The capturing device is a box with a tape inside which we rent from Munday and Collins for $1,000 a-piece. We typically use as many such boxes we require to cover all main tracks – VIS (5), ISMAR (1), VR (2), EuroVis (2). A camera was only used at Pacific Vis 2013 (which had a single track) where the box did not work. The camera and a tripod were acquired in Sidney for AUD$984.95 ($951) and are now property of the VGTC.

As an IEEE organization, no additional copyright clearance is needed from the authors. Since we have the rights to embed the videos on vgtc.org but not make them viewable on other sites, Vimeo was the best choice (as opposed to YouTube). There are also other advantages that made Vimeo most attractive:
- It has better quality than YouTube.
- It has no distracting banners or 30-second commercials before the video starts.
- It offers a cleaner aesthetic and videos are larger with less clutter around the frame.
- It allows us to password-protect the videos so they can be shared only to those visiting vgtc.org.

The last point ensures that people end up on vgtc.org and do not just flip through videos on YouTube. We have a Vimeo Plus account at $59.95/year which provides all of the advantages listed above and allows us to upload 5GB of video per week.

Look for the VGTC videos here: http://vimeo.com/vgtcommunity/

Current issues and plans:
1. The videos are not yet accessible from vgtc.org which is mainly rooted in the fact that the new vgtc.org website is still not operational (see below).
2. Robert Kosara from Tableau recently came forward and offered industry sponsoring of the video capture, processing, and hosting. This would be largely for visualization-type events (as opposed to VR and ISMAR). While this offer is certainly welcome, there are a number of talking points:
- This funding should be independent from the one provided for general sponsorship of VIS. In that respect it was noted that Tableau's VIS funding level dropped down a level from Silver to Bronze.
- It is unclear how the sponsorship would be expressed. Would it be just a logo on the vgtc.org video site or would it be a logo presented at the onset of the video, alongside with the VGTC logo. What would be its relative size? Would it be on all VGTC videos or just on those from a visualization conference?
3. We would like to look into a video that advertises vgtc.org (a teaser/trailer that we can update after each VGTC conference) and that would be something we can place on Vimeo (and also YouTube) to help reach a wider audience.

Action items:
1. Complete website vgtc.org such that the videos can be made publicly available.
2. Come to consensus on the Tableau offer.
3. Come up with a game plan for the teaser/trailer video. For VIS, (some of) the 30-second intro videos could possibly be collaged into a longer video.

2. Online paper archives

We envision vgtc.org as a one-stop shopping experience for papers published in the five VGTC conferences. Recent rules put forward by IEEE allow authors to post their papers on three outlets: (1) their own webpage, (2) on their university's library page, or (3) on arxiv.org. The papers that can be posted must be the accepted pre-print versions, that is, they cannot contain any value added by IEEE, such as copy editing, layout, etc. A legal pre-print copy would have to contain the IEEE Copyright statement and the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number. Upon request IEEE will furnish such a copy to the author.

A convenient indexing medium is the set of webpages used at the respective conferences. Since the VGTC conferences have created these pages no copyright issues with IEEE emerge. On vgtc.org, upon selecting a paper on one of these pages, a page dedicated to the paper is served. It contains:
- the paper's title, author information, and abstract
- a link to the author's pdf file or dedicated web page
- an embedded video of the conference talk
- a social media bar for sharing the page on Facebook, Twitter, and others
- a discussion forum interface

Unfortunately, a paper's DOI number is only available after the conference has occurred which would prohibit its open exposure when it is in the freshest state. Thankfully, the IEEE also allows authors to post pre-prints without the DOI number as long as they add that number once available. In addition, the copyright statement needs to be present on the first page. While authors could add this statement by themselves, we wanted to make sure that no author would post illegal copies. We therefore mailed a properly annotated pre-print paper to the authors. More specifically, Meghan Haley added the following copyright statement to each final paper copy on PCS:

> Accepted for publication by IEEE. ©2013 IEEE. Personal use of this material is permitted. Permission from IEEE must be obtained for all other uses, in any current or future media, including reprinting/republishing this material for advertising or promotional purposes, creating new collective works, for resale or redistribution to servers or lists, or reuse of any copyrighted component of this work in other works.

Following, Meghan then mailed the annotated papers to their respective authors.

Current issues and plans:
1. The papers are not yet accessible from vgtc.org which is mainly rooted in the fact that the new vgtc.org website is still not operational (see below).
2. The final stage of the process is that authors must request and post a DOI-annotated pre-print of the paper. A process needs to be created that makes this as easy as possible to achieve maximum compliance.
3. For now this service only exists for VIS. We would also make it available to the remaining VGTC conferences.

Action items:
1. Complete website vgtc.org such that the papers can be made publicly available.
2. Create process for exchanging DOI-less paper pre-prints on author websites with DOI-annotated pre-prints.
3. Offer this opportunity also to the remaining VGTC conferences.

3. New vgtc.org website
The trouble began in Summer 2012 when it was found that the vgtc.org website was hacked and used for an activity called *Negative Search Engine Optimization (SEO)*. Negative SEO is the opposite of positive SEO – essentially the hacked website is used to discredit a certain target site for a search engine such as Google. In our case the target site was http://www.e-kyf.com – a French company for e-cigarettes. To make a long story short, we had to take down our site and re-emerge with a minimalistic version. We slowly added features to it but decided that it was time for a complete rebuilt with a different content management system (CMS) – Drupal. We had used Wordpress before which apparently is more vulnerable to hacks.

Unfortunately, 2012 was a year in which VGTC had a very small budget (see above). As a result, the low-cost web designer hired for the task of rebuilding the website was not overly capable and the result of the work was mediocre at best. The 2013 budget allowed us hire a new much more capable firm with good credentials. We allocated $15k for this task ($8,200 spent so far) and a promising prototype came to life soon (see http://vgtc.vgtc.org/). Our website http://vgtc.org is now redirected to this prototype. However, the current system is still built on top of the previous designer's work and this turned out to be a major problem, both for vgtc.org and for VIS. The main conflict point is the middle layer, situated between the CMS and the web graphics. It is this part that is handcrafted (by the previous mediocre designer) and buggy which has made it difficult to update the sites with new content. This has led to major delays in critical phases of VIS and has also prevented the previously mentioned content of vgtc.org to go live.

Conferences such as VIS, VR, and ISMAR are built from the same template, but with different graphics. Current bugs are in the calendar and tracks (at VIS 2013 we saw a pdf file instead). It was difficult to add the larger number of tracks VIS 13 had due to these inflexibilities.

Current issues and plans:
1. Rebuild vgtc.org from the ground up eliminating the middle-layer patch work but using components of the "good" site.

Action items:
1. Rebuild website vgtc.org. Add new elements as discussed – papers, videos.

4. The IEEE VGTC Visualization Pioneer Group (VPG)
Modeled after a similar group at SIGGRAPH (the Computer Graphics Pioneers) the IEEE VGTC Visualization Pioneer Group (VPG) was formed this year. Founding members were Pak Chung Wong (PNNL), John Dill (Simon Fraser University), and David Kasich (Boeing). Membership in the VPG requires 20 years of service and activity in the field of visualization. Members honor their commitment to the future of visualization by supporting the group with their annual dues. More information is available at the VPG's webpage hosted by vgtc.org. The first annual banquet on the conference week's Monday evening was a big success with 50 paying attendees. More than 10 additional attendees were invited (see below). Each member paid $50. IBM contributed an additional $1,000 and PNNL contributed $360 for sound system rental. The VPG also covered the $500 prize for the best dissertation award (see below) and along with the cost of the banquet the cost just about balanced out with the available funds.

Current issues and plans:
1. The VPG does not have its own bank account and as a VGTC entity goes through the IEEE TC account. Therefore any gains cannot be carried over to the next year which was not a problem this year – the

gains were $13.63. This makes long term planning difficult. One possible way is to form a nonprofit organization but this requires considerable effort.

2. It was problematic to collect the membership dues at the door. Many gave cash but 9 members paid by personal check which is something our IEEE finance contact is not overly fond of. As a remedy for next year we will seek to enable payment through the conference registration site and advertise the program early.

3. Promote the idea of Pioneer Group to other VGTC conferences.

Action items:
1. Determine an alternative way in which VPG can conduct its business. If this is not possible try to balance the budget each year.
2. Enable VPG member payment through the conference registration site and advertise the program early.
3. Promote the idea of Pioneer Group to other VGTC conferences.

5. Best VIS dissertation award

In 2013, the VGTC also established the Best Doctoral Dissertation Award program to recognize outstanding academic research and development in visualization and visual analytics. The dissertation must address a topic relevant to visualization or visual analytics. The competition is administrated by the IEEE VGTC Visualization Pioneers Group (VPG) under the auspices of VGTC. The award, to be known as the IEEE/VGTC VIS Pioneers Group Doctoral Dissertation Award, will be presented annually at the VPG Reception held at IEEE VIS conference.

This year, all English language dissertations that were successfully defended between July 31, 2011 and July 31, 2013 were eligible for the competition. A total of 11 submissions were received and a committee composed of 5 senior community members was determined to judge them. The committee reported that all submissions were of very high quality which made it difficult to narrow the field down the following set of four finalists:

- Jaegul Choo, Georgia Tech, advisor: Hansun Park
- Alexander Endert, Virginia Tech, advisor: Chris North
- Tiago Etiene, University of Utah, advisor: Claudio Silva
- Zhicheng Liu, Georgia Tech, advisor: John Stasko

After extensive deliberation the following two individuals were identified as winner and runner-up, respectively:

- Winner ($500 cash prize): Alexander Endert, Virginia Tech, advisor: Chris North
- Runner-up: Zhicheng Liu, Georgia Tech, advisor: John Stasko

Current issues and plans:
1. Since this competition was a clear success, already in its inaugural year, it has been contemplated to add a second award targeted at younger talent, say 2nd year PhD students. One might call this award the "Rising Star Award" or something along these lines.
2. A best dissertation award could also be installed at the other non-VIS VGTC conferences, such as VR or ISMAR. If a VPG does not exist in these venues, VGTC budget could be used for this purpose – it was actually allocated for VIS.

Action items:

1. Determine possible criteria for the "Rising Star Award". It might be a mix of reference letters, first outcomes from PhD research, and research done prior to that.
2. Approach VR and ISMAR with the idea of a best dissertation award. The organization would mainly involve local community members – VGTC would only provide the prize and possibly one committee member.

6. VGTC Scholars program
The final effort for 2013 was the VGTC Scholars Program, initiated by online communities chair Chris Collins. The program is coarsely modeled after the program http://www.hastac.org/scholars. Volunteers will post 4 blog entries per year which could act as discussion starters, post links to interesting research from our archives to social media (as themselves) with hashtag#vgtc, and participate in discussions taking place in our archives. Each Scholar will be recognized on vgtc.org and receive a remuneration of US $350 (deducted from a standard conference registration fee of a conference of their choosing). In addition to this monetary incentive, being a VGTC Scholar should also be valued as a great opportunity to become a recognized innovative thinker and community builder. Terms are for one year and are renewable.

An email went out to several mailings lists, including those that VR and ISMAR attendees would read: ieee_vis, infovis, chi-announcements, chi-II, 3dui, ieeevrlist, and ARForum to recruit 6 strong graduate students to become VGTC Scholars, one in each of the key VGTC areas. These areas are listed below, along with the number of individuals who specifically applied for one field. We have currently 20 applicants (15 US, 2 Canada, 1 Austria, 1 Belgium, and 1 France) among these there is only one female.

- Information visualization (6)
- Visual analytics (3)
- Scientific visualization (2)
- 3D user interfaces (2)
- Virtual reality (2)
- Mixed and augmented reality (0)

Current issues and plans:
1. We need individuals from Mixed and Augmented Reality and we would also have more females in the mix.
2. Once we have a sufficient number of applicants the best candidate for each field needs to be determined.

Action items:
1. Advertise the opportunity further, perhaps in a more targeted way.
2. Form a committee to select the best candidates from the pool.

7. Senior VGTC Awards
Each year VGTC sponsors a number of senior awards for VIS and VR. They are typically determined by a secret committee under the chairmanship of a VGTC director – Larry Rosenblum for VIS and Arie Kaufman for VR. The award winners for 2013 were:

- Henry Fuchs: 2013 VR Career Award in recognition of his lifetime contributions to research and practice in virtual environments, telepresence and medical applications.
- Mark Billinghurst: 2013 VR Technical Achievement Award in recognition of technical developments that have significantly advanced research and commercialization in the field of augmented reality.

- Gregory Nielson: 2013 VIS Career Award in recognition of seminal research in geometry/topology-based modeling algorithms for visualization and for co-founding the Visualization Conference and TVCG.
- Kwan-Liu Ma: 2013 VIS Technical Achievement Award in recognition of his seminal work in large-scale data visualization and new visualization techniques.

There were also other awards given for service and the like.

<u>Current issues and plans:</u>
1. The vgtc.org website has very little information on the awards, both major and minor. This should be expanded. Awards info on best papers (along with a link to the respective vgtc.org webpage) should also be given.

<u>Action items:</u>
1. Expand vgtc.org in this direction.

8. Pilot Open Access Model for Conferences

An agreement was signed by Director of Products & Services, IEEE Computer Society and the VGTC chair to conduct a long-term pilot program testing the delivery of conference content through IEEE Xplore through an Experimental Open Access Model. This model currently targets the BioVis symposium. Under this Experimental Open Access Model, the publication fee charged to authors of papers included in the proceedings of the Conference is $68 per paper. The paper will be archived in Xplore as Open Access: fully searchable and accessible for no charge to both members and non-members, regardless of subscriber status. Most rights will be retained by the author, including the right to freely post the edited PDF version of the paper (The edited PDF version is the reviewed and accepted article, with copy-editing, proofreading and formatting added by IEEE). The release of the edited, value-added PDF to authors is a significant gesture by IEEE, made possible only through the author fee model.

Administrative Items

The following sections address topics that are not (yet) initiatives.

1. Eurovis

The Eurovis conference has been co-founded by VGTC and EG and started out as "Joint EUROGRAPHICS - IEEE TCVG Symposium on Visualization" in Vienna, 1999. It was renamed into Eurovis in 2005. In recent years, the local conference steering committee had grown exceedingly unhappy with IEEE's business model of financial sponsorship since it is very different from that of EG. With EG the local organizers bear all financial risk but they do not pay a percent admin fee on the expenses. IEEE takes up this risk, but an admin fee of 20% of the expenses is due. Negotiations with IEEE and VTC went nowhere for a couple of years. The following compromise was now struck for 2013 and on:

- "Eurovis – the Eurographics Conference on Visualization" is renamed to "Eurovis – the EG/VGTC Conference on Visualization". This name change restores the VGTC co-ownership of the conference.
- The VGTC logo will appear on the Eurovis website.
- Eurovis pays for services rendered by Junction Publishing directly. This payment is Euro 15 for each attendee which is 1/3 of the Euro 45 that is the total overhead cost per attendee (Euro 30 goes to EG). With 200 attendees this income amounts to Euro 3,000 ($4,100). Just to put this number into perspective, Eurovis 2011 provided a 2013 VGTC income of $2,155.48.

- Eurovis would apply for IEEE VGTC technical co-sponsorship and VGTC would cover the $350 IEEE CS application processing fee.

Current issues and plans:

1. The remaining issue is how the papers will make it into the IEEE Digital Library (DL). If the papers are not added to the DL a fee of $500 is due. Since Eurovis is now published by Wiley Publishing Company, an agreement needs to be reached how these files can appear in both DLs.
2. A MoU that sets this agreement in stone should be drafted and mutually signed.

Action items:

1. Continue the initial talks with IEEE on how DLs can be shared and bring Wiley into the loop.
2. Draft a MoU that is agreeable to both parties.

2. Institutional memory resource for VGTC conference chairs

Being a conference chair is a learning process. But presently most of these lessons learned are not communicated to the next conference chair. This leads to unnecessary overhead and also to mistakes that can have costly consequences. Nowadays, wiki-style knowledge sharing is easier than ever. For example, Google drive allows the posting of editable documents and spreadsheets. It can be an easy to use and free platform to accomplish this.

Current issues and plans:

1. Use Google drive to set up a resource that codes procedures, timelines, sponsor contacts, and so on, and allows VGTC conference chairs to adapt these over time.

Action items:

1. Contact all 2013 VGTC conference chair and mine their experiences. Then set up the resource for the 2014 VGTC conference chairs (see table below).

Mark Livingston: ISMAR used to maintain these documents. The Steering Committee Chairs (Gudrun Klinker and Mark Billinghurst) should have the current copies. I can check to see what the status of these documents may be

Acronym	General Chair(s)	Venue
VIS 2014	Jean-Daniel Fekete (INRIA, France)	Paris, FR
VR 2014	Victoria Interrante, Daniel Keefe (U Minnesota), Benjamin Lok (U Florida), Greg Welch (U Central Florida)	Minneapolis, MN
ISMAR 2014	Gudrun Klinker, Nassir Navab (TU Munich)	Munich, GER
Pacific Vis 2014	Issei Fujishiro (Keio U, Japan)	Yokohama, JP
Eurovis 2014	Min Chen (Oxford U, UK), Robert Laramee (Swansea U, UK)	Swansea, UK

3. IEEE conference management

After a period of poor service followed by a hiatus, IEEE CS has returned to offer full-fledged conference services, including local arrangements, registration, conference publishing, and even paper submission management. The services offered are covered by the IEEE admin fee and so would not incur additional costs to a conference. It would probably make sense to use IEEE CS for local arrangements and registration and so save the cost currently expended for a separate company (SH Worldwide for VIS), but it might be doubtful to switch the well-tested PCS paper management system that also has considerable knowledge on reviewer expertise with the IEEE system.

Another item is the publishing service. The contact person for VGTC is Monique Rice. However, while Monique makes certainly a good impression, past experiences with IEEE warrant some caution (see below). Currently, VGTC uses the services of Junction Publishing (Meghan Haley) for publishing. Meghan also functions as de-facto VGTC publications chair. Along with Chris Collins she manages and maintains vgtc.org and she is also is the key person in the new VGTC initiatives of online paper archives and conference talk video capture. It should be carefully examined whether VGTC should recommend the services offered by IEEE or rather endorse those of Junction Publishing.
There have been a number of glitches with the IEEE DL:

- In the CS DL, InfoVis and SciVis are denoted as IEEE_INFOVIS and IEEE_VIS, respectively. These terms are in fact rather non-intuitive. They should be called INFOVIS and SCIVIS (or VIS).
- But much worse is that a lot of material is actually missing in the CSDL:
  -- In IEEE_INFOVIS missing are the years 2010, 2011
  -- In IEEE_VIS missing are the years 2010-2012
- In IEEE Xplore, in the conference section, there are also several problems:
  -- There are no links to conference materials beyond 2007 (or 2006). The links, if they existed, should lead to the respective Special Issue (SI) in TVCG
  -- For IEEE Visualization 2006 and 2007 entries do exist but they link to null
  -- For IEEE Information Visualization (INFOVIS), an entry for 2006 exists, but it points to nowhere.
- Finally, it would be helpful to add a menu item 'VIS' to the sidebar in the DL. This item could lead to an information page that list TVCG and so on.

I tried to resolve these problems with Angela Burgess (IEEE CS) and after emailing her I received an email from Alicia Stickley (IEEE CS) who stated that the issues will be fixed on a longer time scale (end of the year).

Another glitch with IEEE DL has been the Pacific Vis proceedings whose publication was delayed due to a reconfiguration of the DL.

Current issues and plans:
1. Junction Publishing has become an indispensable service to the VGTC. It should be carefully examined whether VGTC should recommend the publishing services offered by IEEE or rather endorse those of Junction Publishing.

Action items:
1. Along with VGTC Finance Chair Loretta Auvil create a detailed cost-benefit calculation to determine how much of IEEE Conference Services should be endorsed by VGTC.

4. Better news coverage and exposure
VGTC conferences have a lot to offer. But they largely fail to reach more general audiences. We need efforts that change that. The benefit would be more vendors at the exhibits and attendees that would come to the conference just to see them.

Current issues and plans:
1. A good start would be to promote our award winners and their work in social networks and more mainstream media. We can ask for columns in IEEE CG&A and IEEE Computing Now. We could also put press releases on the AP Newswire and hope they get picked up.

Action items:
1. Get in touch with the respective parties at IEEE. IEEE may also provide services for press releases.

5. Extending conference portfolio to Asia

VIS is a popular topic in greater China, not only because of former PhD students are returning back home to respond to major government investments in higher education. Other Asian countries would also have considerable interest in this topic. A proposal is being formulated to start a conference named VIS Asia or Asia Vis. In order to give this conference a first rate appeal some involvement of IEEE TVCG is desirable. A possible model would be to integrate both VIS and VIS Asia papers into the same special TVCG issue. Authors could choose where to present their accepted paper. A more radical solution could even be that authors could present their paper in both venues and so expose it to a wider audience. This would liberalize the conference model to a presentation arena. Likewise TVCG authors could also present their recent papers in both of these venues, or just one of their choosing. The conference program would be supplemented by additional papers directly submitted to the conference and appearing in dedicated proceedings. Similar to VIS, there would also be workshops, panels, and tutorials. We believe that the reputed brands VIS and TVCG would generate a great amount of excitement and interest in this part of the world, lead to high quality submissions and contributions and so add significant value to VGTC.

Current issues and plans:
1. While some candidates for steering committee, conference organization, and sponsorship have been identified, the publishing model has yet to be determined. The model outlined above is mainly a proposal. Pros and cons of that model need to be carefully evaluated which might lead to a new or modified model.

Action items:
1. Carefully analyze different option on how the VIS Asia program can be composed.