

THE SIG VIS NEWS



Volume 1, Number 2

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



I had intended to have this issue of the SIG VIS NEWS out by the middle of February, but the demands of writing my dissertation proposal necessitated a slight postponement. I hope to have the next issue out just prior to the Mid-year Meeting. This is the second issue of the SIG VIS NEWS and it marks the beginning of a stronger relationship between the VIS Homepage and this electronic newsletter.

In this issue we are fortunate to have two extraordinary articles on image indexing. Turner's article addresses issues in shot-level indexing of moving images and O'Connor writes about verbal descriptors for image documents. In order to present these reports and accompanying images effectively, I have placed them on our Homepage and given you the URLs to go and look at them rather than trying to include them within this mailing. I hope you enjoy reading/viewing them as much as I did!

Thanks to both of our authors for taking the time to send me their work. Thanks go out as well to Judy and Doug Bateman for supplying me with a new CPU when mine died.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



Hello SIG VIS members,

I have just returned from presenting a paper ("An Investigation of Pictorial Image Attributes in Descriptive Tasks") at the IS&T/SPIE Symposium on Electronic Imaging in San Jose. After very briefly summarizing the content of the paper, I would like to share some responses to the paper with you.

The paper reported results on the range and typicality of pictorial image attributes gathered from participants in three separate describing tasks, and related these results to current research in automatic processing of image attributes such as texture, color, and shape. Although the audience was composed primarily of computer scientists and researchers in artificial intelligence, there was quite a bit of interest in the types of image attributes which are most typically described by naive users.

Several researchers expressed the hope that basic research such as this could suggest ways in which automatic processing of images could be facilitated, and there were opportunities for

exploring these ideas further at other sessions. There were also interesting discussions of how far automatic processing can go, and to what extent such processing needs to be balanced with "old-fashioned" indexing.

Since I am neither a computer scientist nor an optical engineer, I will readily admit that I felt somewhat intimidated presenting at a conference where typical papers were entitled "Texture analysis using Gabor wavelets" and vendors were promoting such exotic items as "collimated holes." However, the interest expressed by other authors in my research and the interesting exchange of ideas quickly made me feel at ease. I would like to encourage others doing similar research on access to images to consider wide dissemination of their research results to other communities of researchers. I also welcome further discussion of the opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration that visual image research offers.

NEWS FROM THE WWW



I updated the VIS homepage somewhat, but I am a long way from being finished. I made changes to reflect the new ASIS homepage, and I have added new links to pages about sound/audio research. This is not my area of expertise, however, so if you know of good audio research pages, please let me know!

It seems odd that a page about sounds, images and visualization should exhibit none of the above, so my next update will attempt to move us into a multimedia future. Watch for this by mid-year.

Dont forget to check out the new ASIS Homepage at <http://www.asis.org>

ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

[Pictures, Aboutness, and User-Generated Descriptors](#)

by Brian C. O'Connor

[Issues in Shot-Level Indexing of Moving Images: What Constitutes a Shot?](#)

by James M. Turner



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