
Foreword

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Student Project Reporting (IJSPR)*, the first journal dedicated to publishing peer-reviewed reports on the research and design process, validation and implementation of student-conducted projects in the fields of computing science, engineering, architecture and other related areas. The journal also publishes short communications, letters to the editor and reviews of books, including textbooks, on the same areas. A *Best Paper Award* is conferred annually and includes diplomas and free or discounted software offered by Maplesoft (2022).

All submissions go through a rigorous, double-blind peer review process by at least two reviewers, and at the end of the cycle, reviewers are awarded acknowledgement certificates.

The younger generation, including college students, will haul the economies of their countries into the future (Gonzalez and Jeffrey, 2012). Their work ethics, knowledge, skills, and innovativeness will bring progress, improve people's life, and alleviate or eradicate the problems burdening our civilisation today. In these pursuits, *IJSPR* is providing a platform for students to present the works they did on senior design or capstone projects, honours projects and for student competitions. Reports on graduate student projects are also accepted, as well as educational papers on the best practices of managing student projects and on writing technical reports and other publications.

In the processes of promoting this journal to different universities, I noticed on different professors' webpages ads for MS and PhD student openings. Scepticisms confessed by some of these professors were that there will be too much effort required on their behalf to get a student paper published because undergraduate students do not know how to write. Before becoming successful graduate students and desired collaborators, undergraduate students must learn not only in the classroom and from books, but also how to write technical content (Deb et al., 2019). Before writing, one must read, and reading what other students have produced and what was found acceptable for journal publication makes the gap to good technical writing appear easier to fill.

The inaugural issue for this new international journal features five published manuscripts from a wide range of subjects, originating from universities in Albania, Canada, Mauritius, North Macedonia and the USA.

In Mirku et al., an innovative edge detection method based on model polynomial fitting and calculation of first order derivative of two-dimensional images is proposed. The method is applicable to magnetic resonance image (MRI) processing and is shown to be computationally fast.

Dorokhine and Bratt describe a capstone project where elements from the GameFlow model are used to make a hyper-casual tile-matching mobile game more responsive,

engaging, and challenging, while providing the player with a sense of agency and flow. Several recommendations for game designers are formulated as well as directions for new research.

The work of Chauleva et al. focuses on the use of convolutional neural networks, also known as residual networks, for the secondary structure prediction of RNA. These provide more accurate and efficient results and are important in the development of new drugs and new therapies.

L'Entêté and Ramasawmy explain their study of the use of *Pandanus Utilis* natural fibre as a reinforcing agent in polyester matrix composites. The effect of fibre length and Sodium Hydroxide treatment upon the tensile strength of the composite was then reported and some recommendations made.

Simionescu and Constans present a project for an undergraduate mechanical systems design course well received by the students because of its practical relevance. It involves choosing the main geometry of a crank-slider punch press, of its electric motor and V-belt transmission. Students are then required to size for endurance the pinion-shaft and mating gear, and to calculate the flywheel moment of inertia for which a desired coefficient of speed fluctuation is attained.

IJSPR is here to help facilitate the flow of information and ideas between students and their current and future academic advisers. The editorial board welcomes all relevant manuscript submissions and wishes to their authors long and very fruitful research careers.

Special thanks are due to the editorial board members, to the anonymous peer reviewers and to the contributing authors for making *IJSPR* and this inaugural issue possible. My personal gratitude goes to Inderscience Publishers, particularly to Darren Simpson, Julie Mcallister, Norma Banks and Dr. M.A. Dorgham for their support of this new and unique journal.

References

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