

Appendix II (Version 1, December 2020)

Journal of Universal Computer Science

Background, Governance and Finances



About J.UCS

The Journal of Universal Computer Science (J.UCS) is a high-quality publication which appears in digital form and printed form. The most important characteristics are:

- (a) J.UCS was one of the earliest electronic journals (the test issue appeared in 1994, the first full volume in 1995) with uninterrupted publication since then
- (b) J.UCS has appeared since 1995 with at least 12 issues (regular or special issues) per year
- (c) J.UCS is supported and operated by an international consortium, and thus free of charge for authors and readers
- (d) J.UCS is available under the “Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-ND 4.0)” license since beginning of 2020
- (e) J.UCS is published also in printed form after the end of a year
- (f) J.UCS impact factor has been steadily improved and according to the 2019 JCR, the impact factor is 0.91 and the 5-year factor is 0.89.
- (g) J.UCS can report increasing access numbers with more than 96 thousand unique visits and 61 thousand paper downloads in 2019

Governance and Roles

J.UCS Consortium partners can nominate members in boards and panels for organizational matters in accordance to the Consortium Involvement Plan (refer also to J.UCS Appendix I). Each assignment and nomination for members in boards and panels must be aligned with scientific qualification and following ethical requirements.

Day-to-day business is performed by the J.UCS publishing team including the Managing Editor(s)-in-Chief, the Publishing Manager and the Publishing Assistant. (i) Day-to-day decisions and matters are taken care of by the Managing Editor(s)-in-Chief. These persons will be elected by the representatives of the consortium members from the pool of Editors-in-Chief for a period of three years (re-election is possible); Platinum Consortium Members are eligible to nominate one Managing Editor-in-Chief each. The maximum number of Managing Editors-in-Chief depends on the overall published number of papers and issues per year, the total number however must not exceed twice the number of Managing Editors-in-Chief eligible to be suggested by the Platinum Partners. (ii) The Publishing Manager takes care of the submission, review and publication process, and closely works together with the Managing Editor(s)-in-Chief. (iii) The Publishing Assistants support the Publishing Manager on operational and technical tasks, such as preparing the print volumes, revising templates and giving technical support with the platform and social media communication. (iv) Because of organizational simplicity, Publishing Manager and Publishing Assistants are physically located together with one of the Managing Editors-in-Chief.

Strategic planning and strategic decisions concerning the journal are performed by the members of the steering committee assigned by the Platinum Partners and including also the group of Managing Editors-in-Chief. Decisions can be taken by simple majority, in case of equal votes steering board member's votes count double. This group can also suggest and vote on changes of this document (Appendix II) and the partner contribution document (Appendix I) which however comes into force for future contract periods.

Scientific strategy planning and thematic decisions as well as support in solving thematic and ethical issues will be performed by the group of Editors-in-Chief. This group also approves Managing Editor(s)-in-Chief suggested by the Platinum Partners and can vote and approve additional Managing Editor(s)-in-Chief. Decisions can be taken by simple majority, in case of equal votes Managing Editor(s)-in-Chief's votes count double. Steering Board Members have the right to attend meetings and contribute with their experience but must not vote.

All memberships in the boards and roles are honorary jobs with no pay except the Publishing Manager and the Publishing Assistants. In case of personal meetings, each (consortium) member covers the cost of the meeting, in general meetings are held by virtual video conferences.

Additional roles for scientific communities and panels are based on voluntary basis from the board of editors but can also include the group of Editors-in-Chief. Only senior researchers, ideally in the rank of an university professor, and exceptionally very experienced senior researchers with a PhD, can be a member of the Editorial Board.

Above mentioned requirements apply also for Guest Editors and members of the Guest Editorial Board, however they cannot serve in any of the above boards and roles.

Finances

The main expenses operating and maintaining of J.UCS are:

- (a) Hosting and archiving the digital edition of J.UCS (with ISSN and ISBN) on an open journal platform including cost for DOIs for each paper and long-term archiving on digital platforms and other necessary state-of-the-art services
- (b) Support of the review and editing process
- (c) Printing limited numbers of hardcopies of each volume (with ISSN and ISBN) for long-term archiving in libraries on a yearly basis
- (d) Social media activities to promote J.UCS and its publications
- (e) Digital and printed promotion material (flyer)
- (f) Cost for domain name hosting, graphical and web content
- (g) Staff cost for Publishing Manager and the Publishing Assistants for supporting activities outlined (a) to (f); all other roles are honorary jobs with no pay.

Consortium members contribute by financial support and in-kind donations in accordance to the Consortium Involvement Plan (refer also to J.UCS Appendix I). Consortium members will get listed in alphabetical order within each of the categories in accordance to the Consortium Involvement Plan (refer also to J.UCS Appendix I).

History of J.UCS

J.UCS was initiated by (in alphabetical order) Cris Calude from Univ. of Auckland, Hermann Maurer from Graz University of Technology and Arto Salomaa from the University of Turku already in 1993. Those three are referred to as the founders of the journal. J.UCS was implemented and then operated for more than 25 years at Graz University of Technology. The founders felt that an electronic journal with a yearly archival version in print and incorporating novel technical and organizational aspects was possible and achievable by emerging technologies at that time.

The founders also decided to establish a new review system which builds on a large number (more than 200) of high-quality professionals to become member of the editorial board of J.UCS. The review process follows the opt-in approach, thus abstracts of papers submitted are sent to all members of the editorial board and reviewers can sign-up to review and write a report within 6 weeks in average. The main arguments for this review process rather than handpicking the reviewers as is often done were twofold: (i) papers would never be reviewed by persons not interested or knowledgeable in the field or temporarily unavailable, hence hopefully speeding up the refereeing process and (ii) it would make the job of the managing editor-in-chief easier handling the expected high number of papers.

The growing interest and workload have caused changes of the initial concept by involving two further institutions. By mid-2011, the three institutions Graz University of Technology, the Austrian Competence Center for Knowledge Management and the University Malaysia Sarawak – had shared together the increasing number of activities.

For a long-term sustainability, the J.UCS consortium has been established by Herman Maurer in 2012 and further supporting institutions have joined in. Each such institution contributes to J.UCS in cash or in kind, is having a seat in the board of the J.UCS consortium and is allowed to send one representative as Editor-in-Chief. This decision has been proven successful to fund and operate the journal since then which also guaranties free access for readers and free of charge publishing for authors. Further improvements increasing the quality and impact factors have been applied over the course of the following years by the Managing Editor-in-Chief Christian Gütl. Since the first issues in 2020, J.UCS is truly open and content can be accessed under the “Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-ND 4.0)” license. After more than 25 years of hosting the journal at Graz University of Technology, it has been decided to host the journal on an external open content platform and state-of-the-art publishing system starting with the first issues in 2021. This includes also long-term archiving of the journal by several long-term archiving systems, integration of a reviewer recognition system and social media platforms.