2020

Introduction

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Available at: https://scholarworks.rit.edu/frameless/vol2/iss1/1

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The editors and editorial board of the Frameless Journal are pleased to introduce Volume II of our maturing publication. This volume contains the proceedings of the Fourth Annual Frameless Labs VR/AR Symposium, held on November 21 and 22, 2019.

Our labors in putting together this publication continue to be inspired by a shared fascination with the explosive and multifaceted growth in AR, VR, XR, and immersive and experiential technology. And our inspiration is borne of the inspirations of those who have made contributions to the field in general, and to the Frameless Labs Symposium.

While 2018 was a pivotal year in that it was the first year of peer review, selective acceptance, and academic publication, 2019 allowed us to begin to observe the beginnings of emerging trends. These trends may represent growth and maturation in some disciplines, continued research and experimentation in others, and the spark of new thought and ideas in areas where immersive technologies may be a complete paradigm shift.

This year, the breadth of cross-disciplinary research presented many challenges for our editorial board. By focusing too heavily on the growth of established methodologies, we would risk becoming too staid and conservative in the face of exponential growth and change. Conversely, a too-great focus on emerging topics might lead to a short-term irrelevance, resulting in a publication regarded historically as a journal of what might-have-been, or never quite developed.

For us, “balance” and “relevance” became the key factors overall, and in order to achieve those ideals we embarked on a concentrated effort to expand the cross-disciplinary breadth and level of expertise of our editorial board. We have reached out to a global cohort of academics, researchers, and practitioners who represent a wide range of disciplines in order to properly evaluate submissions and maintain a high level of quality and relevance. We believe that Volume II of the Frameless Journal represents our continued growth in both the Symposium and the published proceedings in these important areas.

But we are still growing. While the volume, variety, and depth of submissions we received in 2019 clearly represents the growth and reach of this technology; our goal is to match that growth and reach with an equally varied, interdisciplinary membership on our board that can offer deep insight into the research and practice being presented.

We are therefore honored to formally present the proceedings of the 2019 Frameless Labs Symposium in Volume II of the “Frameless Journal”, which we believe represents our own growth – in terms of balance in both submission content and editorial expertise.

What is not represented in this journal is “complacency”. We continue to strive for increased breadth and depth on both fronts, and would encourage researchers and practitioners, along with academics, futurists and “seers” to join us in our quest to keep the Frameless Labs Symposium and the Frameless Journal at the bleeding edge of this burgeoning and exponentially-expanding discipline.

Juilee Decker and David Halbstein
(Volume 2, Issue 1)