



INFORMS Journal on Computing

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://pubsonline.informs.org>

Note from the Editor

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To cite this article:

Alice E. Smith (2023) Note from the Editor. INFORMS Journal on Computing 35(5):909-909. <https://doi.org/10.1287/ijoc.2023.ed.v35.n5>

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Note from the Editor

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Published Online in Articles in Advance:

August 17, 2023

<https://doi.org/10.1287/ijoc.2023.ed.v35.n5>

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This issue, I want to highlight the repositories in our *INFORMS Journal on Computing (IJOC)* GitHub organization that now accompany most papers published in the journal. Under the leadership of the previous editor in chief, David Woodruff, *IJOC* implemented both a data policy and a software policy. These put us at the forefront of journals to promote research transparency, research sharing, and full documentation. These policies can be found at our website.

To take this a step further, several years ago, we created an organization on GitHub to serve as the home for repositories containing digital artifacts associated with papers published in *IJOC*. These repositories provide a permanent and controlled place to house the shared data, code, and other artifacts of research published in *IJOC*. We began this effort with the “software tools” area under the leadership of Ted Ralphs, area editor. Ted set up the organization and has developed a set of workflows for authors to submit and editors to review supplemental digital materials. The materials in each repository are frozen (that is, will remain unchanged), and licenses are in place that allow the use of these artifacts. They are documented with ReadMe files.

To acknowledge the effort required by authors to publish these additional artifacts and to emphasize that the artifacts constitute research contributions above and beyond the contents of the paper they accompany, we assign the repositories a digital object identifier (DOI) separate from that of the associated paper. The main purpose of this separate DOI is to enable convenient citation. Given the obvious importance of citations in today’s research environment, it is recognized by many in the scientific community that directly citing software and data in addition to the papers describing them is appropriate in acknowledging the contribution embodied in those artifacts. This can obviously be important to the careers of individuals who publish these artifacts and to the further sharing of these artifacts. Please consider utilizing the DOIs provided if you use any of the data and/or software distributed in association with a paper published in *IJOC*.

The collection of repositories under the *IJOC* organization has been gradually expanded to 9 of the 10 areas of the journal. We anticipate the final area will transition to this protocol within the next six months. We have more than 75 repositories, all linked to published *IJOC* papers, on the *IJOC* GitHub site, and it is growing steadily. By the way, without exception, authors have been agreeable to sharing their data and code. When there is a proprietary aspect, such as in medical data, authors have provided similar simulated data.

We are proud of the progress that *IJOC* has made in promoting scholarly exchange among investigators throughout the world through this effort. Whereas building and releasing each repository requires extra effort by authors and editors, the end result not only facilitates future research and technology transfer, but also helps ensure rigor and replicability in published research.

You can reach the *IJOC* GitHub repository at this link and go to the information about a given paper by selecting the software/data link for that paper: <https://informsjoc.github.io/>.

All my best,

