The Journal of Search and Rescue (JSAR) is an open access peer-reviewed electronic journal for the collation and distribution of original scholarly material on search and rescue (SAR).

It is being supported by the in-kind work and contributions of the Editorial Board. There is still the need for a dedicated journal serving those with a direct interest in all disciplines of search and rescue including: rope rescue, water (flat, swift and marine), ice rescue, wilderness search and rescue, structural collapse rescue, trench collapse rescue, cave rescue, dive rescue, motor vehicle extrication, canine search, technical animal rescue, air rescue, search theory, search management, and mines rescue. JSAR exists to fulfil that need.

Article submissions from these and other SAR disciplines are welcome. Launching this journal on the internet offers a relatively cost-effective means of sharing this invaluable content. It affords the prompt publication of articles and the dissemination of information to those with an interest in SAR.

JSAR will provide a forum for the publication of original research, reviews and commentaries which will consolidate and expand the theoretical and professional basis of the area. The Journal is interested in theoretical, strategic, tactical, operational and technical matters.

Advertising within JSAR will be considered in the future to ensure sustainable funding is available to enhance and continue the work of the journal. The publication of an article in the Journal of Search and Rescue does not necessarily imply that JSAR or its Editorial Board accepts or endorses the views or opinions expressed in it.

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Editorial

This edition of The Journal of Search and Rescue marks the start of an exciting new partnership with the Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management (ICPEM).

The field of search and rescue is faced with ever-evolving challenges, ranging from natural disasters and technological emergencies to humanitarian crises, the complexity, scale and frequency of which are sadly increasing. Amidst this backdrop, search and rescue is not a task that can be accomplished in isolation. It will require partnership across multiple organizations. Combining resources, expertise, and skills will create the opportunity for more substantial impact – safer practices, more lives saved, more ability to help people in their moment of greatest need.

The field of Search and Rescue continues to develop. Recent years have seen increasing capabilities such as the usage of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). We are also increasingly reaping the benefits of advances in the use of data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms capable of processing vast amounts of information. Amidst developments like these, a multidisciplinary approach is essential. No single organisation is capable of harnessing this vast range of skills and expertise alone. Collaboration and partnership must be at the centre of future working.

The Journal of Search and Rescue and the Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management (ICPEM) are driven by a shared vision: seeking to enhance knowledge, foster innovation, and promote excellence in the realm of search and rescue operations.

The collaboration between our two organisations creates exciting opportunities to bring together practical knowledge and scholarly exchange, facilitating the translation of cutting-edge ideas into actionable, on the ground strategies. The Journal of Search and Rescue offers a dynamic platform for the exploration of ideas, while the membership of ICPEM brings a wealth of practical knowledge and experience. The Journal will continue to provide a platform for researchers, practitioners and experts to share their findings, experiences, and innovative approaches, whilst the ICPEM community can then offer a vibrant community of learning and growth to foster these advances.

While research and theoretical frameworks are crucial, the ultimate measure of success lies in their practical application and real-world impact. The collaboration between the Journal and the Institute emphasizes the significance of bridging the gap between theory and practice. By promoting research with direct relevance to the field, we can generate evidence-based insights and practical solutions that improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and safety of search and rescue operations.

In joining forces, the Journal of Search and Rescue and the Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management are embarking on a transformative journey. Together, we can make a lasting impact and contribute to the continuous improvement of search and rescue practices, so that when disaster hits, we are ready.

Frank Long

General Secretary Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, UK