

Robotics and Automation

Letters

Town Hall

ICRA 2015, Seattle

Raja Chatila,

RAS President 2014-2015

Seth Hutchinson, Chair RA-L Steering Committee

Antonio Bicchi, RA-L Editor in Chief

**Allison Okamura, RA-L Deputy Editor in Chief and
ICRA CEB EiC**

Outline

- A new publication – Why?
- Who's in charge and how does it work?

IEEE RAS Publications

- Transaction on Robotics T-RO
- Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering T-ASE
- Robotics and Automation Magazine RAM

- +11 co-sponsored publications

- Conferences

A New publication? Why?

- Compared to other scientific disciplines, our conference papers are longer (6 pages), undergo a solid review process (CEB) and have a higher rejection rate.
- Conference proceedings are not archival (unlike journals).
- Extension of conference papers to journals (e.g., TRO, TASE) raises multiple submission issues and likely reduces paper impact due to citations split between the two versions
- Conference papers are not considered in career evaluation in most institutions worldwide.
- Current capacity of our journals and conferences insufficient for our membership and community growth.

Action

January 2014

- We formed an Adhoc committee to examine the possibility of introducing a new electronic publication and assess different models for its contents, format, modalities, etc., and their impact on our journals and our conferences.
- Positive membership survey

RAS AdHoc Committee on New Publication Strategies

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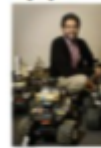
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Decision

- RAS launches a new IEEE periodical, under name Robotics and Automation Letters
- High capacity, prompt turnaround, full peer review process with revisions and rebuttals.
- Accepted by IEEE in February 2015
- Launch on June 1st 2015.
- First issue on January 1st 2016.

Scope

- The *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters* (RA-L) publishes peer-reviewed articles that provide a timely and concise account of innovative research ideas and application results, reporting significant theoretical findings and application case studies in areas of robotics and automation.

People

- Editor in Chief: Antonio Bicchi
- Deputy Editor in Chief: Allison Okamura (ICRA CEB chair)
- Steering committee chair: Seth Hutchinson

Steering Committee for Robotics and Automation Letters

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**Seth Hutchinson, Chair
RA-Letters Steering Committee**

RA-L Steering Committee: Charge

- ***A temporary body, whose activities will eventually be assumed by the Publications Activities Board.***
- Provide advice to EiC and DEiC during the initial selection of Senior Editors, Associate Editors, and keywords.
- Generally interact with the EiC, DEiC and RAS VP for Publication Activity to monitor the operation of the journal, including:
 - Compliance with IEEE Procedures
 - Technical content and quality
 - Review Process (timeliness, quality)
 - Budget

RA-L Steering Committee: Members

- Seth Hutchinson, Chair
- Alessandro De Luca
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- Oussama Khatib
- Dong-Soo Kwon
- Peter Luh
- Yasushi Nakauchi
- David Orin
- Carme Torras
- Kazuhito Yokoi

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- **Allison Okamura**, Deputy E.i.C.

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Robotics and Automation Letters

How will they work?

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ICRA 2015, Seattle

Antonio Bicchi, Editor in Chief

Allison Okamura, Deputy Editor in Chief

How does it work?

- Submit to RA-L
- Submit to RA-L with ICRA Option

How does it work?

- **Submit to RA-L**
- Submit to RA-L with ICRA Option

Submissions to RA-L

- Submissions open year-round
- Page Length: 6 pages + 2 (at a fee)
- RA-L papers are *letters* – concise and quick communications. T-RO & T-ASE are there for longer, more thorough papers, RA-M for dissemination

Author Submission

RA-L
EB

RA-Letters submissions
follow best practices in
RAS journal review
procedures.

1st review

2nd review

IEEE Xplore

RA Letters

Submissions to RA-L

- Electronic only journal
- From Submission to Publication in 6 months. Guaranteed.
- Preprint (camera ready) version on Xplore: 2 days after final submission
- Edited version: 2-3 weeks after

Basics

■ Open Access

- Hybrid Gold OA (optional author-pays)
 - OA option taken after acceptance decision
 - Review agnostic of OA option
- Green OA (arXiv etc.)
 - According to IEEE copyright policies

How does it work?

- Submit to RA-L
- **Submit to RA-L with ICRA Option**

Author Submission

Reminder:
ICRA submissions
follow usual
conference review
process

ICRA 20YY
CEB

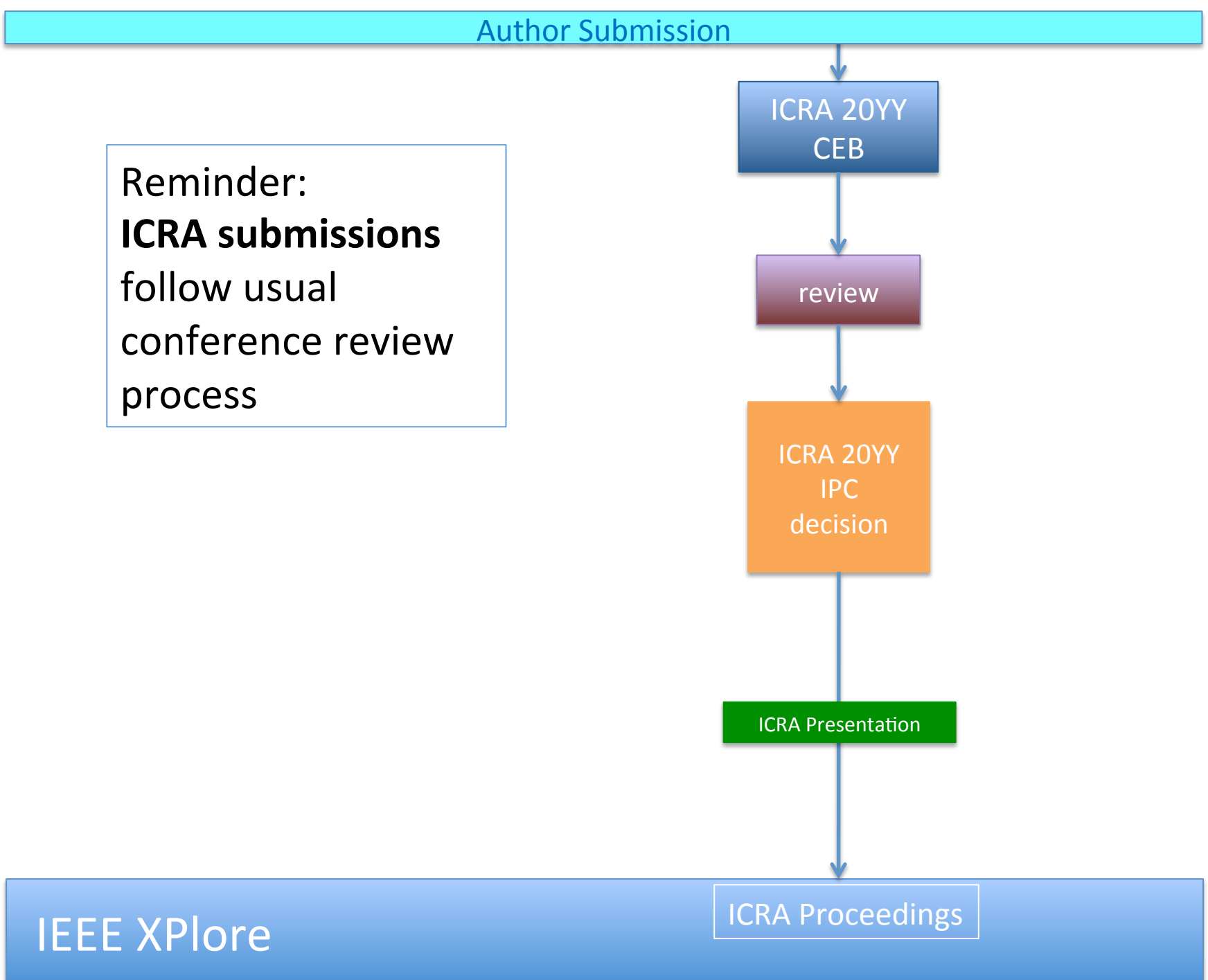
review

ICRA 20YY
IPC
decision

ICRA Presentation

IEEE Xplore

ICRA Proceedings



Author Submission

RA-L
EB

**RA-L submissions
with ICRA option:**

First reviews are passed
to ICRA PC to decide
program

1st review

ICRA
Recommend.

ICRA 20YY
IPC
decision

2nd review

ICRA Presentation

IEEE Xplore

RA Letters

Author Submission

One and only one paper on Xplore!

IF paper accepted by ICRA PC
AND pays registration
AND is presented
AND does **NOT** appear on RA-L
THEN goes to Proceedings

RA-L
EB

1st review

ICRA
Recommend.

ICRA 20YY
IPC
decision

2nd review

Presented at
ICRA?

Accepted in
RA-Letters?

NO
ENABLES

YES
ENABLES

IEEE XPIore RA Letters ICRA Proceedings

Is that clear?

- Manuscripts submitted to RA-L with ICRA option undergo a regular RA-L review.
- Results of the first review round by LEB will be passed along to the ICRA Senior Program Committee (SPC), which decides ICRA program
- ICRA Conference Editorial Board (CEB) continues to provide reviews and comments for manuscripts submitted directly to ICRA
- ICRA Option opens on July 1, 2015
- **ICRA Option closes on August 31, 2015**

Where should I submit my work in the new RAS panorama?

- Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L) for rapid, concise reports
- Transactions on Robotics (T-RO) and Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering (T-ASE) for more mature and in-depth treatments
- Robotics and Automation Magazine (RA-M) for more accessible, wider diffusion papers.

Interested in ICRA too?

- Submit to RA-L with ICRA option if you have a good, stable manuscript to submit by August 31, and you want it to appear quickly on an IEEE journal;
- Submit to ICRA directly if your manuscript is finalized just before the ICRA deadline (September 15);
- Submit to ICRA directly also if you plan to evolve that work into a full-blown manuscript for other prestigious RAS Journals, i.e. T-RO, T-ASE, or RA-M.

Trivia

Trivia

Q) Is the page limit of 6 for RA-L strict?

A) Up to two extra pages are allowed, for a fee of \$175 per extra page.

Trivia

Q) After appearing in IEEE Xplore, will RA-L issues be published also in print?

A) **NO**. RA-L is an electronic-only publication

Trivia

Q) I would like my papers to be freely accessible to everybody. Can I do this with RA-L?

A) **YES.** RA-Letters are Hybrid Open Access. Letters are free of charge to authors, and are freely available to IEEE RAS members. Authors can make their papers openly accessible to everybody, at a charge covering IEEE publishing costs.

Trivia

Q) Can a paper that was published in the Proceedings of an IEEE conference be resubmitted to RA-L?

A) Possible, but **very difficult**. Letters have the same length of most Proceedings.

Evolutionary paradigm applies best to Transactions and Magazine.

Trivia

Q) I submitted a paper to RA-L *with* the ICRA option before August 31, and then a new version to ICRA before September 15. Is that right?

A) **NO**, this is **unacceptable**. When you submit to RA-L with the ICRA option, you have already submitted to ICRA. A later submission to ICRA will void the previous submission, and cancel the RA-L evaluation procedure.

Trivia

Q) I have submitted a paper to RA-L with the ICRA option. The paper has been accepted for presentation at ICRA, and accepted by RA-L. Where will my paper be published?

A) It will appear in RA-L on Xplore. It will not appear in the Xplore ICRA Proceedings: only the title and abstract will be there, with a link to the Letters paper.

Trivia

Q) I have submitted a paper to RA-L with the ICRA option. I have been requested a revision by LEB. Later on, the paper has been accepted for presentation at ICRA, but eventually rejected by LEB. Where will my paper be published?

A) It will only appear in the ICRA Proceedings on Xplore.

Trivia

Q) I have a paper published in the Letters. Can I expand on it and submit to Transactions, the same way I used to do with ICRA Proceedings papers?

A) **NO**. RA Letters are a journal, and it is not acceptable to republish the same material on two journal publications.

A new Transactions submission should have no or little overlap with a paper published in the Letters, and contain novel material.

F.A.Q

Q) When submitting to ICRA, I am used to upload incrementally refined versions of my manuscript. Can I do the same with submissions to RA-L?

A) **NO**. You should submit to RA-L only a stable final version of your manuscript, just like you do with other journals.

Trivia

Q) Will the Letters be indexed in journal databases and will they have an Impact Factor?

A) **YES**, RA-L will be indexed in the major journal databases as for all IEEE publications. The Letters will receive an Impact Factor by Thomson Reuters JCR no later than the third year of publication, which is the rule for any new journal.

Trivia

Q) Are RA-L papers expected to be the same quality as an accepted ICRA paper?

A) RA-L papers should be at or better than the quality of an accepted ICRA paper.

A paper that would get a "B" and above for ICRA would probably be revised to RA-L – and the final version will likely be better!

Note: RA-L and ICRA decisions are made separately, even though ICRA will use RA-L reviews.

Look forward to your
submissions
starting June 1

Your time to ask!