

Editorial

As most of us know, scientific publishing is a lucrative business, especially now, when almost all articles are delivered camera ready by the authors and the printing is outsourced. The ACM, much to its credit, never considered publishing as a source of income and focused instead on producing few, inexpensive, top-quality journals that became the most prestigious publications in Computer Science.

Therefore, I was most pleased and honored when, six years ago, the ACM Publications Board agreed to my proposal to start new Transactions, devoted to Computational Logic. Bill Arms, the then chairman of the Publications Board, stressed to me the importance of maintaining the highest standards for this new journal.

Fortunately, this challenging task was made much easier for me thanks to the impressive editorial board that agreed to cooperate on this project. During the first five years of the journal's existence, we succeeded to interest in TOCL many outstanding researchers who recognized our intention of turning TOCL into the most prestigious journal in the area. Some of them are by now "returning customers," which is a good sign. So far, we have received 280 submissions and built a healthy backlog of accepted articles.

One of the good ideas of the ACM Publications Board is that the editors-in-chief should serve at most two terms, three years each. This ensures quality and avoids stagnation. My second term is up, and I am looking forward to cooperate with the next editor-in-chief to ensure a smooth transition. The importance the community attaches to TOCL is well illustrated by the composition of the search committee for the new editor-in-chief. It consisted of Moshe Vardi (chair), Joe Halpern, Gordon Plotkin and Wolfgang Thomas. Moshe is one of those returning customers, the first TOCL submission was co-authored by Joe, while Gordon and Wolfgang, both area editors of TOCL, were most helpful in setting up the journal six years ago. The committee just completed its work. At the moment this issue goes to press, their choice still has to be approved by the ACM Publications Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ACM staff with whom I have interacted in the past six years and who helped me in many ways in producing TOCL in a timely way. These are: Mark Mandelbaum, Director of Publications; Jono Hardjowirogo, Associate Director of Publications; and Irma Strolia, Editorial Assistant. I cannot recommend Mark too highly to any other computer scientist who contemplates starting a new journal. Also, I would like to thank here Marco Aiello, who turned out to be a most reliable and helpful Information Director.

My biggest thanks goes to the Editorial Board for their trust and willingness to cooperate with me on TOCL and for their devotion to the journal. This collective effort made it possible to maintain the highest standards and to improve the visibility of Computational Logic within Computer Science.

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