**Annual Report of the Publications Board**
*For the Period July 1, 2005– June 30, 2006*

Submitted by: Ron Boisvert and Mary Jane Irwin, Co-Chairs (12/1/ 2005 – 12/31/ 2007)

1. **Basic Information**

   A. **Members of the Board**

| Gul Agha | Original appointment: 5/15/03 – 6/30/06 |
|---|---|
| | Reappointed 7/01/06 – 6/30/09 |
| Michel Beaudouin-Lafon | Original appointment: 1/1/02 - 12/31/04 |
| | Reappointed: 1/1/05 – 12/31/08 |
| Ronald Boisvert | Original appointment: 7/1/97 – 6/30/00 |
| | Vice Chair for Electronic Publishing: 5/8/00 – present |
| | Reappointed: 7/1/00 – 6/30/03 |
| | Reappointed: 7/01/03 – 6/30/06 |
| | Co-Chair: 1/1/05 – 12/31/07 |
| Adolfo Guzman Arenas | Original appointment: 2/15/03 – 2/28/06 |
| Wendy Hall | Original appointment: 7/1/99 – 6/30/02 |
| | Reappointed: 7/01/02 – 6/30/05 |
| | Term extended: 7/1/2005 – 6/30/06 |
| Carol Hutchins | Original appointment: 1/1/97 – 12/31/02 |
| | Reappointed: 1/1/03 – 12/31/05 |
| | Term extended 1/1/06 – 12/31/06 |
| Mary Jane Irwin | Original appointment: 5/01/02 – 4/30/05 |
| | Co-Chair: 1/1/ 05 – 12/31/07 |
| Keith Marzullo | SGB Liaison: 4/01/05 – 3/31/07 |
| M. Tamer Ozsu | SGB Liaison: 12/01/02 – 11/30/04 |
| | Appointed regular member: 12/01/04 – 11/30/07 |
| Holly Rushmeier | Original appointment: 2/1/03 – 1/31/06 |
| | Vice-Chair for New Publications: 2/1/03 – present |
| | Reappointed 2/01/06 – 1/31/09 |
| Vincent Shen | Original appointment: 3/1/06 – 2/28/09 |
| Mary Lou Soffa | Original appointment: 2/15/05 – 2/14/08 |

   B. **Standing Committees**

   The Publications Board itself is handling all the policy and planning issues that used to be delegated to its standing committees, and has further delegated to the staff the monitoring and tracking of business and financial operations. Consequently the Standing Committees (Publications Planning Committee and

Publications Business Affairs Committee) are all vacant.  Holly Rushmeier, in her role as Vice-Chair for new publications, has in effect, been responsible for leading the Board effort in New Publications Planning and Development.

## C. Ad hoc Committees

*DL Advisory Board.*  The task of this new group is to advise HQ and the Board on technical and business issues regarding the DL; including such topics as multimedia collection and presentation; search strategies; business models, and overall quality.  A full-day meeting of this group is being planned for in September 2006. [Mark: It would be good to enumerate the members of this group here.]

*Publications Board Information Director.*  Ron Boisvert continues to serve in this role.  Activities this year consisted of : working with HQ and Scholar One to make improvements and adjustments to the manuscript tracking system; providing advice to staff and volunteers on technical issues related to the Digital Library; helping to maintain the ACM Publications Web Site; providing liaison between volunteer Information Directors and ACM Staff; and informing new Editors-in-Chief and journal Information Directors about their responsibilities with respect to journal web sites.

*CACM Task Force.*  The ACM Executive Committee, along with the Publications Board, formed an ad hoc Task Force to look into the *Communications of the ACM*.  The goal of the investigation is to determine the most appropriate editorial scope and content for ACM's flagship publication, along with any other changes the Task Force feels is appropriate. Stu Feldman, ACM Vice-President, and Mary Jane Irwin, are the Co-Chairs. A draft mock-up of a new CACM was prepared and circulated for comments to the Publications Board, Executive Committee, and Council.

## 2. Editors-In-Chief

EiC's for new journals are appointed as part of the review and approval of new journal proposals.  When there is a vacancy due to the expiration of an EIC's term an ad hoc search committee is formed in accordance with the Board's appointment policy.  In the past year SIGs have been working actively with the Publications Board in forming these committees and conducting the searches, much to the benefit of the ACM Journals and Transactions involved.

The following Editors-in-Chief were appointed or reappointed this past year:

| Existing Journals | | |
|---|---|---|
| Robert McCartney Joshua Tenenberg | JERiC (Journal of Educational Resources in Computing) | 7/1/06 – 6/30/09 |
| | | |

| New Journals | | |
|---|---|---|
| Helen Ashman Arun Iyengar | TWEB (Transactions on the Web) | 9/1/05 – 8/31/08 |
| Jaiwei Han | TKDD (Transactions on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining) | 5/1/06 – 4/30/09 |
| | | |
| **Reappointments** | | |
| Newton Lee | CiE (Computers in Entertainment) | 10/01/05 – 9/30/08 |
| Catherine McGeogh | JEA (Journal of Experimental Algorithmics) | 8/01/06 – 7/31/09 |
| Prabhakar Raghavan | JACM (Journal of the ACM) | 3/1/06 – 2/28/09 |
| Brad Calder Dean Tullsen | TACO (Transactions on Architecture and Code Optimization) | 3/1/06 – 2/28/09 |
| John Hart | ToG (Transactions on Graphics) | 11/1/05 – 10/31/08 |
| Erik Reinhard Heinrich Buelthoff | TAP (Transactions on Applied Perception) | 3/1/06 – 2/28/09 |

In addition, the Publications Board has formed EiC Search Committees to find replacements for departing Editors for TOSEM (Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology) and Computing Surveys.

The Board has developed a formal set of criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of Journal EiCs and Editorial Boards. EiCs will be given this document at the start of their terms, and will be asked to address these criteria in their bids for reappointment.

## 3. Project Summaries

### A. Production

*Production:* After a period early in the year in which production delays were experienced by a number of ACM journals, most journals are now being produced on time. ACM is committed to maintaining the turnaround time of a journal issue from supplied manuscripts to print/online at 8 weeks; this is now being routinely done.

*Editorial Pipeline:* Most of the journals that had been severely late due to lack of content have caught up considerably. There is currently only one "problem" journal that the Board is monitoring.

### B. Article-First Publishing

The Publications Board approved an experiment with *Computing Surveys*, beginning with the March 2006 issue, to publish issues in the ACM DL as soon as manuscripts are ready, even if this is significantly prior to the scheduled date for the hard copy. Several changes in workflow and hard-copy presentation needed to be made (for example, the hard copy will no longer contain month of publication, and page numbers will no longer be sequential). It is expected that all journals will follow this format beginning in January 2007. This is the first step in a process that may lead to article-by-article publication in the DL.

## C. Manuscript Tracking Project

As of June 30, 2006, thirty-one ACM journals were online and functioning with ScholarOne's Manuscript Central system. There have been some issues raised by the editors regarding the user interface and certain functions of the system; Staff is working with the vendor to improve these areas. Several EiCs, along with representatives of ScholarOne, will be invited to the Fall Board meeting to discuss enhancements and improvements of the system.

## D. New Journals Development

In FY06, the Board approved two new publications:

- o ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (TKDD)
- o ACM Transactions on the Web (TWEB)

In addition, the Board reviewed and subsequently rejected three proposals for new journals.

- o Game Development
- o Generative Programming
- o National Security Informatics

The Board is currently considering two proposals: on Information Quality; and on Access. Both of these proposals have gone to the SIGs and to the Editors of all ACM Journals for comments.

## E. Digital Library/Guide

The Board, via ACM HQ, implemented the first phase of a branding system that identifies and highlights ACM contents versus non-ACM contents in any search result. In addition, Front matter, back matter, and acceptance rates for conference proceedings are now routinely captured and displayed. As of June 30, 2006, there were over 183,000 full-text articles in the DL, and over 942,000 bibliographic citations in the Guide.

## F. Publications/SIG Relationship

The Publications Board continued to work with the SGB to facilitate communications between the two bodies.  For example, the Pubs Board Co-Chairs now attend and make presentations at each meeting, participating in an open discussion of publications issues of interest to the SIGs.  Several new journal proposals were circulated to the SIGs for their comments, and, for each EiC search or reappointment, the appropriate SIG(s) have been contacted for input.

## G.  Plagiarism Policy

The Board developed and approved a formal plagiarism policy for ACM.  The policy identifies types of plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), levels of severity of infractions, and prescribes procedures for investigation and punishment of offenders. The policy was widely circulated within ACM, including to all Editors-in-Chief and SIG Chairs, before adoption.  The Publication Board Co-Chairs have briefed the SGB on the policy and also wrote a brief article on the policy which was published in the June 2006 CACM.  Procedures for submitting articles to journals (i.e., through Manuscript Central), as well as to conferences, are being revised to ensure that all authors are aware of the ACM policy.

## H.  Other Initiatives

a)  The Board is working with the History Committee and the Awards Committee to revamp and update the Turing Award web site. A prototype can be found at: http://devwin.acm.org/awards/homepage.cfm?srt=all&awd=140

b)  The Board also is working with the History Committee on making oral histories of interviews with Past ACM Presidents available through the Digital Library, free to the world. This prototype can be found at: http://portaldevwin.acm.org/toc.cfm?id=1141880&type=proceeding&coll=ACM&dl=ACM&CFID=5435&CFTOKEN=25064880

c)  The Board continues to monitor and discuss issues in the areas of Open Access and Institutional Repositories.

d)  The Board is looking at mechanisms to facilitate incremental revisions of the Computing Classification Scheme so that it can be made more responsive to changes in the technology, and how new terms can be quickly integrated for better indexing and searching.

e)  The Board is developing a formal statement regarding the rationale for aggressively starting up new ACM journals.

f)  The Board, through one of its Co-Chairs (Irwin), is involved in the re-positioning of CACM.

## I.  Volunteer Development

The Publications Board intends to identify and recruit new, young talent over the next few years.  The Board will look to establish a liaison position with the new Professions Board. The Board will also look to recruit from Queue and CACM column writers. The Board will also be looking at some of the EiCs of newly approved Transactions, especially those Transactions that are more "applications" oriented (Sensor Networks, Storage, Applied Perception, Web, etc.). Finally, the Board will work with the SIG Liaison, to identify candidates from the SIG communities.

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