

## **Annual Report of the Publications Board**

*For the Period July 1, 2003– June 30, 2004*

Submitted by: Robert B. Allen, Chair

### 1. Basic Information

#### A. Members of the Board

Robert B. Allen, 1/1/99 – 12/31/01; elected Chair, November 2001 - June 2004; term extended for July 1 – December 31, 2004.

Ronald Boisvert, 7/1/97 – 6/30/00; appointed Vice Chair for Electronic Publishing 5/8/00; reappointed for term 7/1/00 – 6/30/03; reappointed for term 7/01/03 – 6/30/06

Wendy Hall, 7/1/99 – 6/30/02; reappointed for term 7/01/02 – 6/30/05

Carol Hutchins, 1/1/97 – 12/31/02; reappointed for term 1/1/03 – 12/31/05

Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, 01/01/02 - 12/31/04

Mary Jane Irwin, 5/01/02 – 4/30/05

M. Tamer Ozsu (SGB Liaison); 12/01/02 – 11/30/05

Holly Rushmeier, Vice-Chair for New Publications, 02/01/03 – 01/31/06

Adolfo Guzman Arenas, 2/15/03 – 2/28/06

Gul Agha, 5/15/03 – 6/30/06

#### 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 these 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 Publications Planning.

#### C. Ad hoc Committees

Publications Board Information Director: Ron Boisvert

Activities this year consisted of : worked with HQ and the manuscript-tracking vendor to make improvements and adjustments.; provided advice to staff and volunteers on technical issues related to the [Digital Library](#); helped to maintain the ACM Publications Web Site; provided liaison between volunteer Information Directors and ACM Staff; and informed new Editors-in-Chief and journal Information Directors about their responsibilities with respect to journal web sites.

## 2. Editors-In-Chief

An ad hoc search committee is formed when there is a vacancy due to the expiration of an EIC's term. 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 involved, in accordance with the [appointment policy](#) recently adopted.

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

Nikil Dutt – [TODAES](#), (Transactions on Design Automation of Electronic Systems), 8/01/04 – 7/31/07  
Mary Jane Irwin - [JETC](#), (Journal on Emerging Technologies in Computing), 10/1/03 – 9/30/06  
Nicholas Georganas – [TOMCCAP](#), (Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications), 1/1/04 – 12/31/06  
Sreeranga Rajan – [TOS](#), (Transactions on Storage), 6/01/04 – 5/31/07  
Feng Zhao – [TOSN](#), (Transactions on Sensor Networks), 9/1/03 – 8/31/06  
Hal Gabow – [TALG](#), (Transactions on Algorithms), 1/1/04 – 12/31/06

The following Editors-in-Chief were reappointed this past year to a second term:

Carlo Ghezzi - [TOSEM](#), (Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology), 01/01/04 – 12/31/06  
Richard T. Snodgrass – [TODS](#), (Transactions on Database Systems), 7/01/04 – 6/30/07  
Ron Cytron, [TOPLAS](#), (Transactions on Programming languages and Systems), 7/01/04 – 6/30/07  
Won Kim, [TOIT](#), (Transactions on Internet Technology), 7/01/04 – 6/30/07

## 3. Project Summary

### A. Journals Catch-up Project:

- 1) Production: The journals continued to be produced on time, or even ahead of time . Within the past year, the turnaround time of a journal issue from supplied manuscripts to print/online was reduced from 12 weeks to 8.5 weeks.

- 2) Editorial Pipeline: Most of the journals that were severely late due to lack of content have caught up considerably. There are still several "problem" journals that the Publications Board is monitoring closely, but substantial overall progress is being made to reduce, and eventually eliminate, editorial delays.

B. Metrics:

The Board and the Staff have started developing a set of metrics that will help identify problem areas as well as areas of opportunity. These metrics will be aligned closely with the [Rights and Responsibilities](#) document, in order to measure satisfaction levels of the constituents identified. Author satisfaction with the ACM journal production process continued strong, as evidenced by the fact that there were no significant author complaints regarding lateness of proofs, typesetting problems, or poor editing quality.

The Manuscript Tracking System has also begun providing a set of metrics regarding editor/referee performance, turnaround times for peer-review, and submission/acceptance rates.

C. Manuscript Tracking Project:

As of June 30, 2004, twenty three ACM journals were online and functioning with this system. The vendor has been working closely with all of the EICs, and HQ Staff to prepare for a migration to a new, substantially upgraded version of the application.

D. New Journals Development:

In FY04, the Board approved six new publications:

- ACM Transactions on Algorithms (TALG)*
- ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications (TOMCCAP)*
- ACM Transactions on Storage (TOS)*
- ACM Transactions on Complex Adaptive Systems (TCAS)*
- ACM Transactions on Sensor Networks (ToSN)*
- ACM Journal on Emerging Technologies in Computing (JETC)*

In FY04, the Board had reviewed and subsequently rejected five proposals for new journals.

E. Digital Library/Guide:

The Board continued to monitor the progress of the DL and Guide, and the Board has provided feedback on issues of pricing, quality control, branding, and new content inclusion. The Board encouraged HQ to enter into discussions with CiteSeer, to see how CiteSeer's technology may be used in the DL/Guide.

F. Publications/SIG Relationship:

The Publications Board continued to work with the SGB to facilitate communications between the two bodies. An ad hoc SGB/PB Task Force was formed to resolve issues regarding standards for print/online proceedings; nontechnical proceedings content in the DL; and other topics. The Task Force presented its findings to both the Publications Board and the SGB. The Board had started work on expanding the metadata definitions to include several fields that are of interest to the SIGs, i.e., there will soon be the ability to capture conference proceedings submission/acceptance rates; the DL will also capture conference proceedings front matter and back matter; and there will be expanded fields for capturing proceedings peer-review data. Plans were also developed to capture/create conference archives (past conference web pages for historical and archival purposes) for the DL as well.

G. Other Initiatives

1. The Board has begun moving to new forms of publication. Several new/electronic journals are now going to “article-first” publishing, in which articles are published in electronic form immediately upon acceptance. Should this prove efficient and effective, the Board will work to have all the ACM publications follow this model.
2. *Queue*: The Board continues to be engaged in this effort. The Board receives monthly status reports, and the Queue Editor gives a report to the Board at its in-person meeting twice a year.
3. The Board has been working to develop a Policy Portal, that will provide high-quality information in many areas of IT policy. A volunteer has been found and is preparing a formal proposal.
4. The Board has been represented on the History Committee and has provided input and comment on this initiative.
5. The Board has had discussions with the Awards Committee regarding establishing an Editor-in-Chief type position, who will be responsible for compiling and collecting the papers of the Turing winners, for the purpose of having a complete Turing Award site within the DL.
6. The Board is working with HQ Publications and IS staff to help develop author/member web pages, which will contain bibliographic, award, and other related data that the author/member chooses to make available.

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