Publications Report
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Outline

• Pubs Board role and mission
• Proceedings of the ACM
• Other Pubs Board Activities

• Q&A and DISCUSSION
Publications Board Role

- Governing authority over ACM’s
  - Journals, Magazines, ICPS, Tech Packs, ...
    ICPS = Int’l Conference Proceedings Series
  - Digital Library
  - Publications Policies
    - Access: Copyright, licenses, ...
    - Reviewing
    - Plagiarism
    - ...

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Publications Board Mandate

- Highest quality publications
  - efficient & cost-effective operations
  - publishing policies for content quality and selection process integrity
- Scholarly communication leadership
  - proactive wrt thematic evolution of the field
  - access policies & sustainable business models
  - content preservation
Pubs Board Committees

- Business Working Group
- Conferences
- Ethics & Plagiarism
- Journal Assessment & Search
- Digital Library
- Technology
- New Publications
- Magazines (still forming)

Note: Always looking for nominations of good volunteers for committees
SGB – Pubs Board Links

- SGB Liaison to Pubs Board
- Joint Conferences Committee

- SGB input on
  - major policy decisions (e.g., access policies)
  - pub board studies (e.g., review processes)

- Several Pubs Board members coming from SGB
Pubs Board – SIG/Conference Links

→ Policies, e.g., peer review, confidentiality, plagiarism, ...

← Problems, e.g., complex plagiarism, self-plagiarism, duplicate submission cases, ...
SIG – Publication Links

- Often no direct SIG-pub correspondence
- SIG representatives on EiC search committees
- SIG opinion on new journals; editorial re-appointments
- Official SIG-pub relationship (ad hoc)
- ...

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• Requested SGB feedback in June
• Documents by Conference Committee
  – White paper on conf-journal relationships and mechanisms/policies for best of both worlds
  – Concrete PACM proposal
• Little reaction, mostly positive, some negative
  – Quality questions, especially on proofs
  – PACM monopoly or author PACM/journal choice
  – Philosophical differences in process and purpose
Conference-Journal Space

Motivation
• History
• Community growth
• Globalization
• Timeline changes
• Specific community issues
• Technology and ACM’s added value
• Branding and citations
Conference-Journal Space

Current approaches

- **Conference-First**: Copy-paste special issues: no proceedings
  Post-conf special issues: paper + ~25% submitted “as new” to journal

- **Journal-First**: journal paper presented at subsequent conf (w/ or w/o conditions)

- **Any-First / Journal-Integrated**:
  - Accept each other’s decisions
  - Journal approval of conference process
  Conf to journal hand-off for 2nd revisions
White Paper Principles

• Evaluation Criteria
  – Impact
  – Accuracy/completeness
  – Correctness

• Review Process
  – Quality (reviewer expertise)
  – Quantity (enough reviewers)
  – Structure (timeliness, revisions, COIs, ...)

• Content & Format
  – No artificial limits
  – Info on rich content
Proceedings of the ACM

- Journal Series with subseries
- Subseries Title: PACM on X (tentative)
- Publishing proceedings of conferences with journal style reviewing

**Goal:** Journalizing / unifying quality ACM conference publications
• Governance: 7-member Steering Committee
  – 4 among participating SIG nominees
  – 2 and chair appointed by Pubs Board
  – 2-year rotating terms
SIGs can propose own subseries with full control within basic principles

Subseries
- “Housing” one or more confs
- EiC and Editorial Board
- Own numbering
- Own review processes
- …
Proceedings of the ACM

- Under discussion
  - Finances
  - Detailed mechanisms
  - Independent submissions
  - ...

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Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession
• September CACM editorial “Should Conferences Meet Journals and Where?”
  – Accompanied by pro and con viewpoints
• Broad survey released “now” for feedback by September 20
  – All types of conference-journal relationships
  – PACM
• Pubs Board f2f discussion and decision at end of September
Early Feedback and Key Questions for Input

- The specific qualifying criteria:
  - At least three independent reviewers
  - Process with at least one major revision (if needed) reviewed by reviewers (2-cycles)
  - Any specific eligibility criteria other than committee judgment (years of track record?)
  - Should a “conference-based” journal have to accept direct submissions (not to conference)?
Early Feedback and Key Questions for Input

• Feedback from several prominent community members (e.g., former EiCs): PACM should replace journal-integrated option
  – too much pressure on EiCs from conf leaders; confs have relaxed criteria after integration
  – PACM will succeed better if all SIGs have a strong incentive to make it succeed …
  • … rather than some using it and others trying to by-pass it to integrate with various Transactions
OA-related Activities

• Continuing to examine gold OA journals popping up on CS topics
  – Recall: Creation of ACM gold OA umbrella journal suspended
• Posting of accepted articles on arXiv or other non-commercial reps (final policy details in Sept.)
• Developing proposal for “sponsored” proceedings (discounted OA proceedings), including price
• Workflows for compliance w/ government mandates (capturing funding info, opening articles, CHORUS)
• Monitoring usage of openTOCs, open Surround proceedings, and Author-izer
Other Pubs Activities

- DL improvements (search, author-handling)
- Archiving of data, code, ... for reproducibility
- Labels for replicated, open code/data, ...
- Investigating article and publication metrics
  - We all know problems with ISI impact factor
  - Should ACM lead or support an effort to develop better citation metrics for CS?
- Exploring concept of “author roles” to recognize specific contributions
Q&A and Discussion