

Annual Report of the Publications Board
For the Period July 1, 2008– June 30, 2009

Submitted by: Ronald F. Boisvert and Holly Rushmeier, Co-Chairs
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1. Basic Information

A. Members of the Board

Gul Agha (<i>UIUC</i>)	Original appointment: 5/15/03 – 6/30/06 Reappointed 7/01/06 – 6/30/09
Ronald Boisvert (<i>NIST</i>)	Original appointment: 7/1/97 – 6/30/00 Vice Chair for Electronic Publishing: 5/8/00– Reappointed: 7/1/00 – 6/30/03 Reappointed: 7/01/03 – 6/30/06 Co-Chair: 1/1/05 – 6/30/07 Reappointed Co-Chair 7/1/07 – 6/30/10
Ricardo Baeza-Yates (<i>Yahoo!, Barcelona, Spain & Santiago, Chile</i>)	Original appointment: 1/1/07 – 12/31/09
Jack Davidson (<i>U Virginia</i>)	SGB Liaison: 4/01/07 – 07/1/2011
Nikil Dutt (<i>UC Irvine</i>)	Original appointment: 7/1/2008 – 6/30/2011
Carol Hutchins (<i>NYU</i>)	Original appointment: 1/1/97 – 12/31/02 Reappointed: 1/1/03 – 12/31/05 Term extended 1/1/06 – 12/31/06 Term extended 1/1/07 – 12/31/10
Ee-Peng Lim (<i>SMU, Singapore</i>)	Original Appointment 1/1/07 – 12/31/09
Catherine C. McGeoch (<i>Amherst College, Amherst, MA</i>)	Original Appointment: 8/15/09 – 8/14/12
M. Tamer Ozsu (<i>U Waterloo</i>)	SGB Liaison: 12/01/02 – 11/30/04 Appointed regular member: 12/01/04 – 11/30/07 Appointed Vice Chair for new Publications, 7/1/07 -6/30/10
Holly Rushmeier (<i>Yale</i>)	Original appointment: 2/1/03 – 1/31/06 Vice-Chair, New Publications: 2/1/03 – 6/30/07 Reappointed 2/01/06 – 1/31/09 Appointed Co-Chair of Board 7/1/07 – 6/30/10
Vincent Shen (<i>UST, Hong Kong</i>)	Original appointment: 3/1/06 – 2/28/09 Reappointed 3/1/09 – 2/28/12
Mary Lou Soffa (<i>U Virginia</i>)	Original appointment: 2/15/05 – 2/14/08; extended one year to 2/15/09 Reappointed 2/16/09 – 2/15/12

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. Tamer Ozsu (7/1/07 – 6/30/10) is responsible for leading the Board effort in New Publications Planning and Development.

C. Ad hoc Committees

Publications Board Information Director. Ron Boisvert continues to serve in this role. Activities this year consisted of: working with HQ and Scholar One to facilitate handoff from tracking to production to ensure reliable pipeline statistics; participation in ACM DL Workshop; 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.

2. Strategic Vision

The Publication Board continues its work to make ACM the preferred publisher in computing. In the Board's view, this requires (a) continual improvements in the experience for authors and readers, and (b) aggressive development of the highest quality content and services within the ACM Digital Library and the associated Guide to Computing Literature. The Board has initiated two programs this year to further this strategic vision. It has formulated a plan to re-launch ACM's International Conference Proceedings Series as a high-quality alternative to LNCS for conferences and workshops meeting ACM's quality criteria. The Board has also begun development of a set of statistical quality measures to assist in ongoing assessment of its expanding journals program.

3. ACM Publications Portfolio

The centerpiece of the ACM Publications Portfolio is the ACM Digital Library and its associated Guide to Computing Literature. During the past year, 22,000 full-text articles were added to the ACM DL and another 128,000 works were added to the bibliographic database bringing the total Guide coverage to more than 1.25 million. ACM is currently the publisher of 78 active periodicals, including 6 journals, 31 transactions, 8 magazines, and 23 newsletters. In addition, it provides primary online distribution for 10 additional periodicals through the ACM DL. During FY09, the first issues of two new periodicals appeared:

- *Transactions on Computation Theory*
- *Journal of Information & Data Quality*

During FY09, ACM published 284 conference and related workshop proceedings, including 47 in ACM's *International Conference Proceedings Series*.

4. Editors-In-Chief

EiC's for new journals are appointed as part of the review and approval of new journal proposals. EiCs serve for 3-year terms, with the possibility of a single renewal. When there is a vacancy 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 year:

New Editors for Existing Journals		
Gene Tsudik (UC Irvine)	<i>Transactions on Information and System Security (TISSEC)</i>	1/1/09-12/31/11
Adrian David Cheok, (Keio U) and Masa Inakage (Keio U.)	<i>Computers in Entertainment (CiE)</i>	1/1/10-12/31/12
Tom Conte (Georgia Tech.)	<i>Transactions on Architecture and Code Optimization (TACO)</i>	4/1/09-3/31/12
Dale Miller (Ecole Polytechnique)	<i>Transactions On Computational Logic (TOCL)</i>	7/1/09-6/30/12
Carol O'Sullivan (Trinity College Dublin) and Roland Fleming (MPI Tuebingen)	<i>Transactions on Applied Perception (TAP)</i>	1/1/09-12/31/11
New Journals		
Qiang Yang (HKUST)	<i>Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST)</i>	7/1/09-6/30/12
Hsinchun Chen (U. Arizona)	<i>Transactions on Management Information Systems (TMIS)</i>	7/1/09-6/30/12
John Impagliazzo (Qatar U.)	<i>Inroads Magazine (formerly the SIGCSE inroads newsletter)</i>	7/1/09-6/30/12
Josh Tenenberg (U. Washington) and Robert McCartney (U. Connecticut)	<i>Transactions on Computer Education (formerly JERiC) (TOCE)</i>	7/109-6/30-12
Reappointments		
Andrew Sears (UMBC) and Vicki Hanson (U. Dundee, Scotland)	<i>Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS)</i>	9/1/09-8/31/12

The Board has developed a formal set of criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of Journal EiCs and Editorial Boards. EiCs are given this document at the start of their terms, and are asked to address these criteria in their bids for reappointment. See <http://www.acm.org/pubs/eic-criteria.html>.

5. Summaries of Ongoing Projects

A. Journal Processing

Production: Turnaround time in production (from the time an issue is received by HQ, until it appears in print) is now averaging six weeks. All journals for which there is sufficient content are now on or ahead of schedule.

Editorial Pipeline: Most journals now have sufficient content for at least the next two issues. There are two journals with little or no backlog, and HQ staff and the Publications Board Co-Chairs are working with those Editors-in-Chief to address the problems.

B. Online-First Publishing

In this initiative, we changed ACM's production model so that issues are put into production and published in the ACM Digital Library as soon as the manuscripts are ready, independent of the print distribution date. Print distribution occurs on the traditional schedule, even though this may lag well behind DL publication.

The goal of this initiative was to eliminate long publication queues due to *temporary* fluctuations in a pipeline. Fifteen journals have made use of this feature this past year. In several cases, the volume of submission and acceptances has permanently grown so that the gap between official online publication and subsequent print distribution continues to widen, indicating a need for increased pages. The Board has taken steps to assess these needs and to re-allocate page budgets accordingly.

C. Manuscript Tracking

The Publications Board as a matter of policy insists that all journals use Manuscript Central. EiC appointments and reappointments are contingent on EiC use of the system. The use of this system by ACM journals is now bearing fruit; EIC transitions are handled more smoothly and the Board is beginning to receive valuable statistical data from the system to assist it in monitoring journal trends.

D. New Journals Development

In FY09, the Board approved two new ACM publications, the *ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems (TMIS)* and *The ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST)*. With these new journals, ACM fills two major gaps in its publications portfolio – the MIS and AI spaces.

The Charter and Scope of *ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems (ACM TMIS)* states it is “a scholarly journal that publishes the highest quality papers about the design, development, assessment, and management of information technology and systems within organizations. *ACM TMIS* will publish quarterly. The journal welcomes innovative, high-impact papers on a full range of MIS and information technology (IT) related research areas, including, but not limiting to: system analysis and design, IT innovations and project management, web-based information systems and applications, data and web mining, social computing and social media analytics, services computing and process management, knowledge management, green information systems, global information systems and e-business, information systems security and privacy, human-computer interactions, human behavior and organizational studies, social and cultural aspects of information systems, economics and information systems, IT curriculum and education, and emerging information systems applications in health, government, and other organizations. Design science and system-oriented papers are especially welcome.” The proposer and Founding EIC is Hsinchun Chen, McClelland Professor of Management Information Systems, Director, Artificial Intelligence Lab, University of Arizona

The Charter and Scope of *ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (ACM TIST)* states it “is a scholarly journal that publishes the highest quality papers about intelligent systems, applicable algorithms and technology, and novel applications from a systems and multi-disciplinary perspective. Intelligent systems are those that can perceive, reason, learn, and act intelligently, and are often embedded in or integrated with other practical systems that offer important services.” *ACM TIST* will be published quarterly. The proposer and Founding EIC is Qiang Yang, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

In FY09 the Board also approved a new *Transactions on Computer Education (TOCE)* which revamps the former Journal of Educational Resources in Computing with a new editorial focus. Josh Tenenberg and Robert McCartney are the new co-EiCs.

The Board also approved an ambitious SIGCSE proposal to reinvent its newsletter, *InRoads*, as an ACM magazine removing the previous proceedings issues and expanding reviewed articles of original material. John Impagliazzo led this effort on behalf of SIGCSE and was appointed EiC of the new magazine.

Other actions related to publications included the following.

- Detailed analysis of each journal in terms of cost, pages, acceptance rates, and DL usage as well as the overall growth of the publications program.
- Acceptance of a TOCHI initiative to incubate new transactions in sub-areas by restructuring TOCHI into sections to test a sub-area's viability.
- Consideration of a proposal for a new interactive component of CiE with user-generated content and competitions.
- Consideration of a proposal for a new *Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems*, a proposal which seems to lie squarely between AI and CHI.

The Board reviewed and subsequently rejected a proposal for a new transactions on Computer Games as well as journals in the areas of Social Computing and Performance Evaluation.

E. Digital Library/Guide

This past year, several members of the Board, participated in a workshop at HQ which reviewed various aspects of the current DL and elicited ideas for improvements and new directions.

The Board subsequently reviewed and commented on three major new DL initiatives now in development.

- Institutional Profiles showing their publications and affiliated faculty; advisors and doctorates granted; distribution of subject areas and related SIGs; institutional collaborations; and various summary metrics with percentile rankings.
- An interactive function to facilitate the construction of virtual overlay books, annotated bibliographies, and other compilations inside the DL.
- A new automated permissions system now in production.

The Board actively participates in strategic planning for the Digital Library and Guide to Computing Literature and continues to review new developments. The Board is particularly pleased to see additional resources devoted to the expansion of Guide coverage leading to increasingly robust citation statistics.

F. ACM International Conference Proceedings (AICPS) Revitalization

The ACM International Conference Proceedings Series (AICPS) was initiated by ACM in 2002 to provide a venue for the publication of proceedings of quality conferences and workshops not formally sponsored by the ACM or its SIGs. AICPS proceedings are made available in the ACM Digital Library (DL). ACM does not print or distribute printed versions of AICPS proceedings. Conferences may make their own local printing arrangements if desired. The AICPS has been a

successful venture, providing conference organizers a low-cost means of electronically publishing proceedings that ensures high visibility and wide distribution. During FY 2008, for example, ACM published 69 proceedings in the AICPS. In many cases, AICPS growth has come at the expense of other popular venues, such as Springer's *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*.

Up to now the AICPS has not had high visibility; its existence has been communicated by word of mouth, and its presence in the ACM DL is undistinguished, and its management has been rather informal. Because of its rapid growth, and its potential to bring new high quality content into the DL, the Pubs Board has decided to initiate a more formal editorial management structure for the series to continue to ensure ACM-level quality. The series will be managed similar to other ACM publications and will have an EIC who, along with the Editorial Board. A search for an EIC for the AICPS is underway. Once the new editorial management structure is in place, then ACM will undertake more aggressive branding and marketing of the AICPS.

G. Other Initiatives

- a) Plagiarism Monitoring.
 - In FY 09, the number of plagiarism cases again increased as is happening in other fields as well. Cases of simultaneous submission have arisen leading the Board to clarify ACM policies on Prior Publication and Simultaneous Submission which were vetted by the SIGs.
 - ACM participated in the development of the CrossCheck® anti-plagiarism service and has found it very useful in investigating several allegations this past year. This year the Board plans to have editors begin to test this system on articles prior to publication as it is integrated in ScholarOne's Manuscript Central tracking system; hopefully this will curtail the current rise in plagiarism cases.
- b) eCopyright Transfer. ACM has built an application for electronic transfer of copyright. The Board expects it rolled out into production this year, first for conference proceedings and later for the journals.
- c) Copyright Policy. The Board updated the Copyright Policy to allow the deposit of accepted articles copyrighted by ACM in any repository legally mandated by the agency funding the research reported in the article.

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