



Publications Report

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Association for
Computing Machinery

Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

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
 - ...



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)
- ...



Conference-Journal Space

- 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



Proceedings of the ACM

- Governance: 7-member Steering Committee
 - 4 among participating SIG nominees
 - 2 and chair appointed by Pubs Board
 - 2-year rotating terms



Proceedings of the ACM

- 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
 - ...



Proceedings of the ACM

- 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 repos (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



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