Annual Report of the Publications Board
For the Period July 1, 2009– June 30, 2010

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

A. Members of the Board

The terms of Co-Chairs Ronald Boisvert and Holly Rushmeier came to an end on June 30, 2010. Board members Ronald Boisvert and Jack Davidson were nominated to serve as Co-Chairs for the next three years and were confirmed by the ACM Council. Joseph Konstan was appointed as the SGB Liaison, replacing Jack Davidson in that role.

A list of members of the Publications Board during FY 2010 is given in Table 1.

B. Board Operations

The Publications Board conducts its business with monthly conference calls along with two 1.5-day face-to-face meetings each year. Urgent issues are dealt with via email discussion and vote. The Board routinely invites new Editors-in-Chief to attend its face-to-face meetings. These invitations enable new EiCs to meet ACM staff and volunteers that they will be working with, as well as to gain insight in the workings of the Pubs Board. The Board benefits from a wider set of perspectives in its complex discussions.

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 vacant. Tamer Ozsu directly leads the Board effort in New Publications Planning and Development. This year a standing committee of Publications Board members was established to help with the investigation of plagiarism cases.

Publications Board Information Director. Ronald Boisvert continues to serve in this role. Activities this year consisted of: 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.

Ad hoc Committees. The Publications Board occasionally establishes ad hoc committees or informal standing committees to deal with special issues. For example, ad hoc search committees are routinely chartered by the Board to identify candidates for Editor-in-Chief vacancies. (These are most often established in collaboration with SIGs.)

2. Strategic Vision

The Publication Board seeks to maintain ACM's position as the preferred publisher in computing. The Board also envisions ACM as the principal curator of publication data for the field. The Board has a three-pronged approach to achieve this.

- Aggressively developing the highest-quality content within the *ACM Digital Library*. In particular, there should be an appropriate ACM venue, including journals, proceedings, and magazines, for the publication of the best articles in *all* areas of computing.
- Ensuring comprehensive coverage of non-ACM publications in the ACM *Guide to Computing Literature.*
- Continually improving the experience for authors and readers.

3. ACM Publications Portfolio

The centerpiece of the ACM Publications Portfolio is the ACM Digital Library. During the past year, 21,000 full-text articles were added to the ACM DL, bringing ACM's total holdings to 281,000 articles. The historical growth of article holdings is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

ACM is currently the publisher of 78 active periodicals, including 40 journals and transactions, 10 magazines, and 23 newsletters. In addition, it provides primary online distribution for 10 additional periodicals through the ACM DL. During FY10, ACM added 364 conference and related workshop proceedings to the DL, including 45 in ACM's *International Conference Proceedings Series (ICPS).*

ACM achieved a significant milestone this year in its effort to be fully indexed in the Web of Science. Ten ACM journals and transactions received their first impact factors this year: JETC, TAAS, TACO, TAP, TECS, TISSEC, TOCHI, TOIT, TOSEM, TWEB. This brings the total number of ACM periodicals in the Web of Science to 29. The top impact factors among ACM periodicals for 2009 were the following.

- *Computing Surveys*, 7.667
- *Transactions on Graphics*, 3.619
- *Transactions on the Web*, 2.812 (first time listed)
- *Journal of the ACM*, 2.717

ACM journals also fared well in comparison with other journals in the field. Four ACM journals were ranked in the top 10 (of 91) in the CS Theory and Methods category (*Computing Surveys* was number 1). In addition, four ACM journals were ranked in the top 10 (of 93) in the Software Engineering category (*Transactions on Graphics* was number 2). Other placements of note include:

- TOMS ranked 13th of 202 in Applied Mathematics
- TCBB ranked 8th of 80 in Mathematics, Interdisciplinary Applications
- TON ranked 9th of 76 in Telecommunications

- *Communications of the ACM* ranks 9th of 91 for Theory and Methods; 9th of 91 in Software Engineering; and 7th of 49 in Hardware and Architecture. CACM is also #1 in all three of these areas for the sheer number of citations to it.

4. Bibliographic Database

ACM's Guide to Computing Literature is integrated with the ACM Digital Library, providing an increasingly comprehensive index to the literature of computing. More than 230,000 works were added to the bibliographic database in FY 2010, bringing the total Guide coverage to more than 1.52 million works. Capturing article references in the database is important, since these are necessary to develop robust citation statistics. ACM continues to expand the number of articles in which this data is captured. Recent growth is as follows:

Year	Total References	Resolved in Guide
2008	6.3M	2.2M
2009	7.8M	2.8M
2010	9.8M	3.4M

ACM continues to forge metadata exchange agreements with other publishers to obtain such data for the Guide. Data from Springer's *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* is now being processed. SIAM has agreed to provide its references for citation counting (though not for display). The IEEE Computer Society continues to block the exchange of metadata with other IEEE societies and will not deliver its own references (though they provide us with their own basic metadata); as a result ACM is now harvesting these at its own expense.

5. 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. 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.

When there is a vacancy an ad hoc search committee is formed in accordance with the Board's appointment policy. 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. During FY 2010 Editors-in-Chief of 16 ACM periodicals were appointed or reappointed by the Board. These are enumerated in Table 2.

6. Summaries of Ongoing Projects

A. Journal Management

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.

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

ACM continues to implement its Online First initiative in which 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 is 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.

Page Budgeting. The Publications Board has initiated a formal process to evaluate resource needs for its journals and transactions. Each such publication is assigned a page budget, which is used as a proxy for resources used. Editors-in-Chief are asked each winter to provide a request for pages for the next FY. The Publications Board evaluates these requests against a variety of statistics related to impact to allocate pages across all publications. Not only does this process enable a more informed decision on resource allocation, but it has proven to be a useful forum for EiCs to air issues that they have encountered.

B. New Journals Development

The *ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems* (TIIS) was approved in FY 2010; its first issue is expected in the spring of 2011. From its call for papers:

> "TiiS (pronounced "T double-eye S") is a new ACM journal whose goal is to encourage and disseminate research that combines methods and ideas from artificial intelligence (AI) and human-computer interaction (HCI). The journal publishes papers on research concerning the design, realization, or evaluation of interactive systems that leverage or exhibit some form of machine intelligence."

Also approved in FY 2010 was a new on-line portal associated with the *ACM Computers in Entertainment* (ACM CiE) magazine. The motivation is to provide a frequently updated and interactive site that is typical of, and expected by, the population that is

served by ACM CiE. Newton Lee, the founding Editor-in-Chief of ACM CiE, will be the Editor-in-Chief of the ACM CiE website.The new portal will include:

1. Expanded video interviews of scholars and professionals in the entertainment technology field
2. Headline news written by entertainment technology reporters and writers
3. Reviews of games, books, and new entertainment products
4. Blogs of entertainment technology professionals, students, and scholars
5. RSS feeds of news from other entertainment technology magazines
6. Discussion forums on research, education/conferences, scholarships, and jobs
7. Competitions of user-submitted games, computer-generated music, CGI, animation, and interactive online entertainment"

Several publications approved in FY 2009 are currently in advanced stages of development. The *ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems* (TMIS) and the *ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology* (TIST) were approved in FY 2009; first issues are scheduled to be published in the fall of 2010.

Two ACM magazines were re-launched during FY 2010. *Inroads* was transformed from the SIGCSE Bulletin newsletter to an ACM magazine with a wider variety of content, some formally reviewed, and a new look and feel. *Crossroads*, the ACM student magazine became *XRDS*, with a new editorial process and a more modern style that should appeal to its student audience.

Finally, the Board voted to terminate the ACM magazine *networker*. The magazine had a very small circulation and had been losing money. Most significantly, it was completely managed and run by staff. It was felt that editorial management for ACM publications should come from volunteer experts. Since no such group was forthcoming it was decided to halt publication.

C. Digital Library/Guide Development

The Board actively participates in strategic planning for the Digital Library and Guide to Computing Literature and continues to review new developments. The Board reviewed and commented on three major new DL initiatives now in development.

- o Improved citation pages, now in beta release. These pages have an improved design and provide much better context for users arriving at the DL via external search engines.
- o Institutional Profiles showing publications of affiliated faculty; advisors and doctorates granted; distribution of subject areas and related SIGs; institutional collaborations; and various summary metrics.
- o Conference profile pages providing a conference-centric view consolidating a wide variety of data associated with the event.

The Board is also very pleased to see additional resources devoted to the expansion of Guide coverage leading to increasingly robust citation statistics.

The success of the DL has made it a very desirable publication venue. One indicator of this is the success for the ACM International Conference Proceedings Series; see below. Another is the increasing number of requests for ACM to host content for external groups. Such requests have come from other societies, other publishers, as well as from open-access electronic publications. The Board feels that a long-term strategy needs to be developed to provide a context for handling such requests. As a result, the Board is now working to establish criteria to use in evaluating content that third parties ask to be hosted in the DL.. Along with this, the Board is considering how best to brand and present content of other publishers within the DL.

D. ACM International Conference Proceedings (ICPS) Revitalization

The ACM International Conference Proceedings Series (ICPS) 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. ICPS proceedings are made available in the ACM Digital Library (DL). The ICPS 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 2010, for example, ACM published 45 proceedings in the ICPS. In many cases, ICPS growth has come at the expense of other popular venues, such as Springer's *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*.

The Board is in the process of establishing a more formal editorial management of ICPS, including a formal editorial board which will develop and apply more clearly defined selection criteria for inclusion of proceedings. An important part of this will be close cooperation with the SIGs. Along with this change the series will be re-branded and re-launched. The first step in this process has been completed. The Board has selected Tom Rodden, Professor of Computing in the School of Computer Science and IT at the University of Nottingham as the Editor-in-Chief of the series. An Editorial Board is now in the process of being formed.

E. Cooperation with the CCF

The Publications Board is playing a significant role in ACM's China Initiative. The Board has approved, in concept, three specific steps aimed at improving the exposure of Western audiences to Chinese research and to further improve ties between ACM and the Chinese Computer Federation (CCF):

1. Inclusion within the ACM DL of Chinese translations of CACM articles published in the *CCF Communications.*
2. Hosting of two CCF journals within the ACM DL: *Journal of Computer Science and Technology* (English) and *Chinese Journal of Computers* (English abstracts)
3. Development of a co-branded ACM/CCF journal containing English translations of the best papers from CCF conferences

Vincent Shen, a member of both the Publications Board and the ACM China Council, is leading the effort to develop these ideas into concrete proposals.

F. Other Activities

a) <u>Computing Classification System.</u> The Publications Board has initiated an effort to update the ACM CCS, which was last changed in 1998. There are still many groups that find value in the CCS, but the field has changed considerably in the last 12 years. The Board is searching for an Editor-in-Chief for the CCS who can take the responsibility for its editorial management.

b) <u>Overlay Book Series.</u> The Board is defining an overlay book series for the ACM DL. An overlay book would be constructed from articles in the DL, along with references/links to material from other publishers, along with some introductory material and additional annotations. Overlay books might serve the following purposes: (a) to provide a succinct introduction to an emerging research field by collecting its most influential papers, (b) to collect together classic papers to serve as ancillary material to college courses. Such books could be read online or could be exported to PDF for offline use. We are also investigating the possibility of print-on-demand.

c) <u>Plagiarism.</u> ACM continues to receive allegations of plagiarism which require investigation and action. Cases that seem straightforward are handled by the Director of Publications in consultation with the Publication Board Co-Chairs. However, with the advent of several more complex cases, the Board has instituted a Standing Subcommittee on Plagiarism to aid in the investigations. In addition, external experts have also been consulted in some cases. Recently, the Board approved a modification of the plagiarism policy to (a) require the identification of the person making plagiarism allegations, (b) require ACM to protect the identity of the complaining person, and (c) to require more detail be provided in any allegation.

d) <u>Oral Histories.</u> The Board approved the addition of sections on Oral Histories to its Rights and responsibilities policy as requested by the ACM History Committee. The Board included the explicit right of ACM to seal questionable material according to a well-defined process.

e) <u>Copyright of Art Images.</u> The Board is considering a request from SIGGRAPH to allow authors to retain copyright of art images included in ACM articles.

f) <u>Editors-in-Chief Orientation.</u> At the Board's request, an information packet for new Editors-in-Chief was developed that includes an outline of their responsibilities, editorial and production procedures, and a list of relevant ACM HQ contacts.

g) <u>Journals Promotion.</u> At the Board's request, a formal plan for the promotion of new journals (and possibly of struggling journals) was developed. The plan is being applied to TSLP, TMIS, JOCCH, TIST, and TIIS.

Table 1. *Members of the ACM Publications Board*

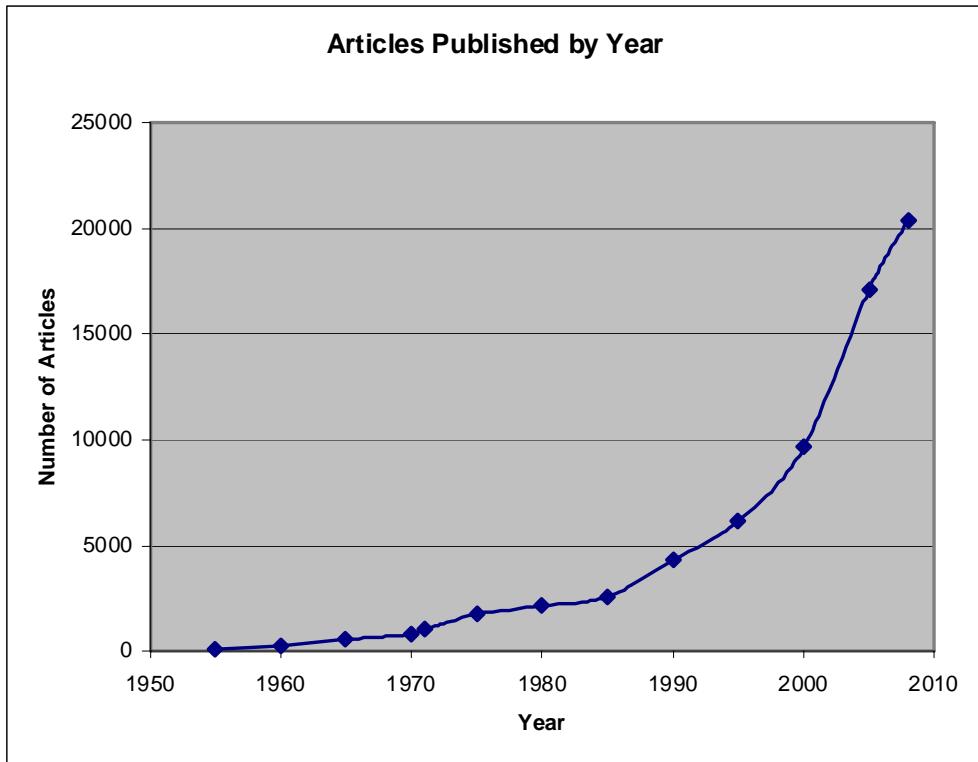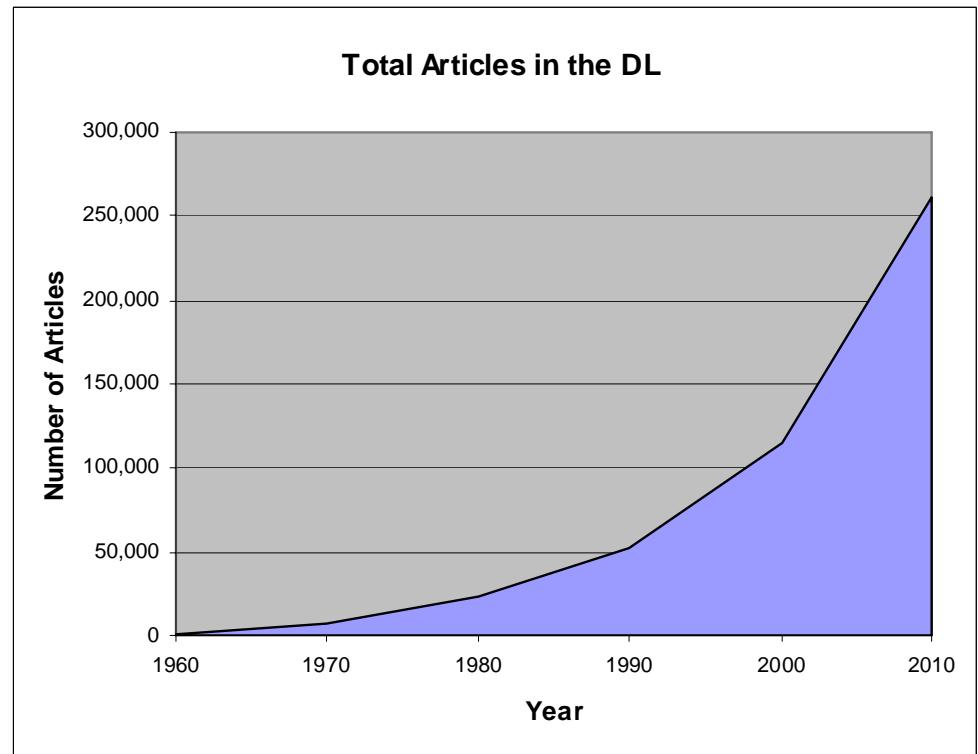|	
Ronald Boisvert *(NIST)*	Original appointment: 7/1/97 – 6/30/00 Vice Chair for Electronic Publishing: 5/8/00– Reappointed: 7/1/00 – 6/30/03 Reappointed: 7/1/03 – 6/30/06 Co-Chair: 1/1/05 – 6/30/07 Reappointed Co-Chair 7/1/07 – 6/30/10 Reappointed Co-Chair 7/1/10 – 6/30/13
Ricardo Baeza-Yates *(Yahoo!, Barcelona, Spain & Santiago, Chile)*	Original appointment: 1/1/07 – 12/31/09
Jack Davidson *(U Virginia)*	SGB Liaison: 4/1/07 – 06/30/10 Appointed Co-Chair 7/1/10 – 6/30/13
Nikil Dutt *(UC Irvine)*	Original appointment: 7/1/2008 – 6/30/2011
Carol Hutchins *(NYU)*	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
Joseph Konstan *(U Minn)*	SGB Liaison: 7/1/10 – 06/30/13
Ee-Peng Lim *(SMU, Singapore)*	Original Appointment 1/1/07 – 12/31/09 Reappointed: 1/1/10 – 12/31/12
Catherine C. McGeoch *(Amherst College, Amherst, MA)*	Original Appointment: 8/15/09 – 8/14/12
M. Tamer Ozsu *(U Waterloo)*	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 – Reappointed: 7/1/10 – 6/30/13
Holly Rushmeier *(Yale)*	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 Reappointed 7/01/10-6/30/11
Vincent Shen *(Hong Kong UST)*	Original appointment: 3/1/06 – 2/28/09 Reappointed 3/1/09 – 2/28/12
Mary Lou Soffa *(U Virginia)*	Original appointment: 2/15/05 – 2/14/08 Term extended to 2/15/09 Reappointed 2/16/09 – 2/15/12

Figure 1. Articles published by ACM by year.

Figure 2. Cumulative article holdings in the ACM DL by year.

Table 2. *Recent Editor-in-Chief Appointments*

New Editors for Existing Journals		
Victor Vianu *(UCSD, USA)*	*Journal of the ACM* (JACM)	9/1/2009 - 8/31/2012
Amy Friedlander *(NSF)*	*Journal of Computing and Cultural Heritage* (JOCCH)	9/1/2009 - 8/31/2012
John Riedl *(Univ. Minnesota, USA)* and Anthony Jameson *(German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, Germany)*	*Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems* (TIIS)	11/1/2009 - 10/31/2012
Peter Chen *(Univ. Michigan, USA)*	*Transactions on Computer Systems* (TOCS)	1/1/2010 – 12/31/2012
Ralf Steinmetz *(Tech. Univ. Darmstadt, Germany)*	*Transactions on Multimedia Communications and Applications* (TOMCCAP)	1/1/2010 – 12/31/2012
Krishnendu Chakrabarty *(Duke Univ., USA)*	*Journal of the Emerging Technologies in Computing* (JETC)	12/1/2009 - 11/30/2012
Darrell Long *(UC Santa Cruz, USA)*	*Transactions on Storage* (TOS)	7/1/2010 – 6/30/2013
Matt Welsh *(Harvard Univ., USA)*	*Transactions on Sensor Networks* (TOSN)	7/1/2010 – 6/30/2013
Pierre L'Ecuyer *(Univ. of Montreal, Canada)*	*Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation* (TOMACS)	5/1/2010 – 4/30/2013
Jens Palsberg *(UCLA, USA)*	*Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems* (TOPLAS)	7/1/2010– 6/30/2013
Reappointments		
David Notkin *(Univ. Washington, USA)*	*Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology* (TOSEM)	7/1/2010 – 6/30/2013
Stuart Madnick *(MIT, USA)*, and Yang Lee *(Northeastern Univ., USA)*	*Journal of Data and Information Quality* (JDIQ)	12/1/2009 - 11/30/2012
Chris Hankin *(Imperial College London, UK)*	*Computing Surveys*	5/1/2010 - 4/30/2013
Wayne Luk *(Imperial College London, UK)*	*Transactions on Reconfigurable Technologies and Systems* (TRETS)	3/1/2010 - 2/28/2013
Hwee Ng *(National Univ. Singapore)*	*Transactions on Asian Language Information Processing* (TALIP)	6/1/2010 - 5/31/2013
Marcello Federico *(Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy)*	*Transactions on Speech and Language Processing* (TSLP)	6/1/2010 - 5/31/2013