

# 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
    - ...



#### 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 reappointments
- 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

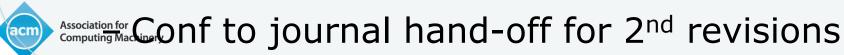
- History
- Community growth
- Globalization
- Timeline changes
- Specific community issues
- Technology and ACM's added value
- Branding and citations



#### Conference-Journal Space

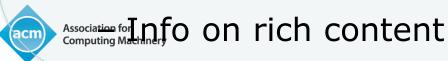
#### Current approaches

- 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



#### 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



- 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

**—** ...



- Under discussion
  - Finances
  - Detailed mechanisms
  - Independent submissions

**–** ...



- 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 noncommercial 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



