Editorial

One year ago The British Computer Society appointed Heyden and Son Ltd to produce and publish *The Computer Journal* on behalf of the Society. Control of editorial policy and the handling of contributions of course continues to be exercised by the Society. This enables the Society to contract out to a professional organization the functions of production and marketing and paves the way for the solution of three of the problems of producing our international journal, namely (i) maintaining the quality of production; (ii) responding quickly to changes in computing developments; (iii) minimizing the delays in getting papers into print. After one year it is generally recognized that the quality of production has improved markedly. Some changes have been made in the presentation but these have been minor. They have been agreed by The Editorial Board in order to standardize on the printing conventions and to simplify the problems of communication between editors, publishers and printers. The attention of authors is drawn to the new style for references; otherwise, everything contained in the 'Information for Authors' continues to be directly applicable.

The aim in 1982 will be to tackle the second and third problems. Readers will have noted that this is a bumper issue (160 pages in total). Subsequent issues will also have more pages than the usual 96. Our first two issues for 1982 taken together will enable us to bring to publication an unanticipated inflow of regular papers, and thereafter the time between acceptance of a paper and its publication will be just as fast as the editorial and refereeing procedures allow. It had been thought that an extra volume would be needed to enable us to publish the flow of papers in timely fashion. However, from comments received it appeared that one greatly enlarged volume would be more appreciated. The use of a variable number of pages per issue will continue, because this flexibility will help to reduce production delays. The aim of The Journal for the future will be steady growth in size as we attract more and more quality material. Such an aim is clearly dependent upon maintenance of our technical standard and I am confident that *The Computer Journal* will convince those leading research and development in the field that it represents the foremost publication for reporting their results. A highly desirable feature would be to increase the amount of space devoted to new business applications or aspects of their implementation and we stress our policy of welcoming papers on these topics.

As a step to encouraging more widespread contributions, whilst confirming the status of The Journal, and as a response to the rapidly changing scene in computing, the Editorial Board is undergoing significant expansion. The present team of twenty will be increased to around thirty and it will embrace further specialists in new areas of interest such as graphics, databases, communications and office automation. In addition it will have a wider geographical representation, having members from America, Europe and the Far East, which will stress the international reputation that *The Computer Journal* has achieved.

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