
Editorial

I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed Editor-in-Chief of *The Computer Journal*. The *Journal* has a long and distinguished history as one of the pre-eminent journals in computer science in the world. Its previous editors have set high standards for the quality of the papers that appear in it. I hope to maintain these standards, perhaps even improve upon them a little!

A number of changes are being made to the *Journal*; some you will already have noticed when you received this issue. It is being launched with a new cover design and is published by a new publisher: Oxford University Press. You will also notice the emergence of sections, for example a section for Short Notices and a section for Book Reviews collected together rather than scattered throughout the issue. I am pleased to be able to announce that the *Journal* is receiving support from the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS) and from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Information Technologies and Industries and Telecommunications (DG XIII).

Since 1989 the issues of the *Journal* have appeared almost exclusively as special issues on a variety of topics. Although this has worked well in the short-term I would like to encourage new contributions especially unsolicited papers in a full range of subject areas. I believe that the time has come to return the *Journal* once again to being made up predominantly of submitted research papers. My intention is to preserve the nature of the *Journal* as a generalist journal, which because of its wide circulation will continue to stimulate researchers in both industrial and academic worlds to offer papers about their current interests. Computer scientists contributing to the *Journal* must wish to present their work to a wider audience than one that they can reach by submitting to one of the many specialist journals. This can be an exciting enterprise; often by presenting one's work to a wider audience new insights are achieved. It also discharges a responsibility to the profession to inform working computer scientists about the latest research and developments in related fields.

I hope to increase the emphasis on Book Reviews, for example, by having in-depth comparative reviews of a set of books. I intend to introduce a regular section on the history of computing. Each issue will have a commissioned feature article on a topic of current interest. Short Notices will be accepted for speedy publication thereby giving authors the opportunity to see new ideas in print very swiftly. From now all papers accepted will be printed in full thus discontinuing the category of Additional Papers.

Further special issues in progress are: Curriculum Issues, Mathematical Computation, Spatial Data, Parallel Computing. For 1994 I plan to have two special issues, one on Process Algebra the other on Computer Animation. Other issues for that year will be open to general submission. Potential authors wishing to submit papers to special issues should contact me for details.

The editorial structure has also been changed somewhat. Happily the previous editor has agreed to stay on as a Consulting Editor. Consistent with the increased support from CEPIS and DG XIII we plan to make *The Computer Journal* more attractive throughout Europe. Associate Editors across Europe are being appointed, they will operate largely autonomously, gathering papers and arranging from them to be refereed before passing them to me for a final decision. Supporting all the Editors will be an Editorial Board drawn from all over the world but in the first instance from Europe. With the new structure I hope to make *The Computer Journal* a truly accessible journal attractive to people working in research and development of computing in industrial, research, and educational institutions.

I would welcome suggestions from readers and potential authors about ways which the *Journal* might be enhanced even further.

Keith van Rijsbergen
Editor-in-Chief