EDITORIAL

It has been a year since I assumed my role as Editor-in-Chief with Felix Naumann serving as Senior Associate Editor. We would like to share some of our accomplishments and plans for the coming year.

As we all know, Stuart Madnick and Yang Lee provided a huge service to our community by inaugurating the journal and serving as the founding editors for four years. Over this period, they worked out many of the growing pains associated with any startup project. Thus, there was a solid base upon which Felix and I could build, with the intention of moving our fledgling journal to the next level.

We had four objectives for the first year. The first was to establish best practices for the journal review process, which had some challenges, including fairly long delays in the reviewing cycle. We addressed this issue by inviting in some new associate editors who were committed to spending some effort on the reviewing process. We also set specific timelines for each phase of the review project. Most important, Janet Cavanagh, the Administrative Assistant for the journal, helped me to keep track of the articles and to send gentle reminders (and sometimes not so gentle messages) to the associate editors and sometimes to the reviewers. This seems to have worked well and we are proud to report that a majority of our articles are reviewed within 90 days of submission. A big thank you to all of you who helped us to accomplish this major goal.

The second objective was outreach to a diversity of communities. While the core data quality community is small, data quality is of growing interest in many emerging areas ranging from big data to linked data to social data, and it is relevant within a range of application domains. We prepared a one-page flyer with the help of Laura Lander from ACM headquarters, and we have been circulating this to various mailing lists and sharing it with attendees at several conferences. We have also been proactively reaching out to potential authors.

We urge all of our readers to submit your best manuscripts to the journal. Further, we encourage you to reach out to colleagues and friends, to recommend our journal. If we want to target a minimum of 4 issues per year with 4 manuscripts per issue then we need between eighty to ninety annual submissions in order to have a solid pipeline of manuscripts under review. At present we are reaching about two-thirds of that goal, and we have to work harder to reach our target.

The next objective was to better serve the needs of our target audience. As you know, one of our strengths is our diversity, and this includes diversity of research interests and methods, application domains, and interests. For example, our community has a significant number of practitioners. There is also an interest in good tutorial and educational material. Yang Lee had started the idea of expanding beyond the traditional research article and we worked closely with her to come up with guidelines for EXPERIENCE papers. They are shorter papers (with an optional online appendix). Unlike the criteria typical of research articles, they must satisfy the following criteria: provide significant insight into a practical real world problem, and outline solutions that could be generalized. We also are open to case analyses.

Finally, we wanted to improve the depth and contributions of our manuscripts. Special issues are the best vehicle for this, and we have had three special issues in the past. The first (co-edited by Felix and me) in 2009, was on data quality in database

and information systems, followed by a 2012 issue on information quality in health-care (co-edited by John Donoghue, Jane Grimson, and Katherine Seelman), and a 2013 special issue on entity resolution (edited by John Talburt). We currently have a special issue in process on provenance and data quality (that will be co-edited by Paolo Missier and Paolo Papotti), and we are discussing several more special issue ideas. We welcome your ideas and offers to lead a special issue.

To summarize, we have made some good progress in the last year, but we still need to work hard to strengthen the data quality community and our journal. Our plans for 2014 are to continue to work on these objectives. In particular, we want to increase the number of new manuscripts to 50 in 2014.

ACM has started a project to recognize the most significant publication from each of its journals. We are calling out to our community to send us your best manuscripts and, as important, to cite articles in our journals. We also plan to increase the number of special issues. Finally, Felix has started a special project to challenge our community. Keep tuned for the results of this project in an upcoming issue in 2014.

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Editor-in-Chief