Editorial: Electronic Publication of TOCS

With this issue of *ACM Transactions on Computer Systems*, I am pleased to introduce some major new steps toward fully electronic publishing both for TOCS and for other ACM journals.

As many subscribers will be aware, ACM has developed a sophisticated electronic archival storage system over the past year. Starting with the present issue of TOCS, full-text copies of all articles will be available, online, to subscribers. TOCS subscribers will also have unrestricted free access to abstracts from other ACM journals. ACM is also planning to develop services for nonsubscribers and will announce them in the future.

ACM will soon introduce other electronic products, such as a means of accessing the total "database," including all journals.

We'll also be placing copies of accepted articles online, so that readers can access these before the scheduled publication date. I think that for TOCS, which has a short backlog, the impact should be minor, but for some of ACM's other journals, it could be quite significant.

Potential authors should consult the instructions for authors on the ACM web page. To make this electronic option work, we need to obtain your manuscripts in a machine-readable format.

The current plan has some obvious limitations: for the time being, only a limited number of back issues will be available in the database, although more (eventually 5 years of issues) should be online soon. For online articles, full text is available through ACM's web site (choose WWW Account and follow the instructions for creating an account, which is required but will be done at no charge; a PDF viewer is also required, and a free downloadable version is available there from Adobe Systems, Inc. For this, go to the ACM Digital Library on the ACM web site). Additionally, we are discussing some TOCS-specific ideas. I would be open to suggestions or comments. Feel free to send me email.

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