Editorial

Time flies, especially when you are doing a nice job.

ACM Editors-in-Chief are nominated for a 3-year term, and this term can be renewed only once. My second term at ACM *Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage* (JOCCH) elapses in April 2018. Therefore, this is a sad moment, since I have enjoyed serving this journal and working with the ACM staff, the colleagues of the Editorial Board, the anonymous reviewers, and, obviously, the authors.

When I took over from the previous EiC, Amy Friedlander, I wrote an editorial where I listed my objectives for JOCCH. My goals were as follows:

- to improve the visibility and quality of JOCCH, which I aimed to consolidate as the premier scientific journal for the interdisciplinary Computer Science (CS) and Cultural Heritage (CH) communities;
- to introduce new policies to improve the quality and the number of submissions;
- to reduce the average duration of the review cycle;
- to start the process leading to inclusion of JOCCH in the pool of journals listed by ISI and to obtain the impact factor;
- to establish closer cooperation and synergy with the major scientific events in the CS and CH domain;
- and, finally, to revise the composition of the Editorial Board and to institute term limits.

Most of these objectives have been accomplished. According to my personal evaluation, the journal's scientific visibility improved over these past few years. The number of submissions is adequate and sufficient to easily fill the pages assigned by ACM to JOCCH every year (four issues for a total of 450 pages). We had an acceptance rate of 27% in the last term from 2015 to 2017 (this average value has been computed by excluding the submissions to the Special Issues, which usually have a lower acceptance rate). The review cycle time has been reduced considerably, as the average time to receive the first review response is now 2 months. ISI has included JOCCH in the Science Citation Index, and thus we have precise figures on the impact factor (0.5 in 2016, a value that I hope will improve over next few years). We established cooperation with many scientific events (VAST, EG GCH, VSMM, Digital Heritage, ArcheoFOSS, ICIAP), leading to jointly selected conference Best Papers and the submission of extended versions of those paper to JOCCH. The Editorial Board is now organized with clear rules stating the term duration (3-year term limit), and every 18 months we renew 50% of the members.

Overall, the status of JOCCH is safe, and its appreciation in our community has improved. Nevertheless, we still have room for improvement.

Increasing the quality of the submissions is always a major objective; as with many journals, we have to fight with conferences, which are often perceived as a more rapid venue for the dissemination of research results.

An open issue depends on the availability of anonymous reviewers. This is a limited and precious resource that we should not waste (this is why we use the Desk Rejection instrument on a subset of submissions). Each of us, as representatives of the scientific community, should be more committed to review tasks. I strongly believe that this is a crucial part of our professional activity and a key resource for any scientific journal. The apparent trend to deny review requests should be challenged, perhaps by devising innovative reward systems.

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To conclude, it has been an honor to serve as EiC of *JOCCH*. The work done over the past 6 years would have not been possible without the support of excellent colleagues. I thank Laura Lander (ACM Journals Manager), Karina Rodriguez (EB member and Editorial Assistant), all past and current EB members, the authors who submitted articles, and, last but not least, all the colleagues whom I bothered over the past 6 years with so many review requests.

Roberto Scopigno

Editor-in-Chief