Editorial

In issues 5(5) and 6(2) we set out our ideas for ways in which we foresaw FAC developing. The most adventurous of these was establishing an ftp server for the journal and subsequently moving to the practice of making certain, typically lengthy and/or very detailed and specialised, papers available *only* from the server.

This issue marks the inauguration of that service. Associated with the (printed) paper by Stomp and de Roeper, there is a much larger ‘sister’ paper on the server. Details of how to access it are to be found with the usual references at the end of the paper. Similarly, with issue 6A, published simultaneously, there is an extra paper available from the server.

The targets for page limits on submissions previously suggested in 5(5) are now more formally set out in revised “Instructions for Authors”. These, and other journal related information, can be found on the server (login as “anonymous” with your email address as password, to ftp.cs.man.ac.uk and open the directory pub/fac); you may also access this via WWW using the URL

<http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/fmethods/facj/index.html>

Coincidentally, the 8 papers in this issue are almost within the proposed limits. Of course, we will not attempt to enforce any retrospective size limits on papers already submitted; there are a few slightly larger papers in the pipeline and some authors are modifying their papers so as to conform more closely to the targets. As with all changes of this nature it will inevitably take time to achieve convergence.

The papers in this issue cover a wide spectrum of topics which perhaps cannot be fairly summarised in a few words; but the gradual reduction in the size of papers and consequent increase in number of papers per issue mean that more of our readers will find articles which are of particular interest to them. We strive to give better value, more papers (quality papers), more quickly.

John Cooke