Editorial

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New Editorial Board

I would like to thank the members of the new Editorial Board for their help and support as we have worked to get JCD back on schedule. With the assistance of the board, we are finding appropriate articles and commentators for them more quickly than before. With their continuing efforts, we now have the next three issues in progress, so we should be back on schedule soon. Meredith Blackwelder continues to add improvements and efficiencies to our production process.

Memberships

With an economic downturn, especially in technically related industries, it should not surprise us that membership in professional organizations is going down. From published reports and from word of mouth, we hear that memberships in many special interest groups have dropped in the last couple of years. To that end, we encourage you to consider recruiting new members for SIGDOC. We have outstanding conferences this year in Toronto and next year in San Francisco. The Journal is going to continue publishing thought-provoking articles and commentaries on them. Among the many other benefits of membership is the ability to join ACM's Digital Library. Searching the Library can yield rich lists of publications from journals, transactions, and proceedings. As the Library's entry point, the "ACM Portal," describes it,

A half century of pioneering concepts and fundamental research have been digitized and indexed in a variety of ways in this special collection of works published by ACM since its inception. The ACM Digital Library includes bibliographic information, abstracts, reviews, and full texts.

You can view documents online in pdf format or print them for later reading. Go to the ACM's website (at <http://www.acm.org>) and check out the Digital Library and the ACM Portal. Use of the Library requires a subscription to it. Encouraging your organization's library or research center to subscribe may get you the capability to access the Digital Library's benefits without incurring the cost for an individual subscription. For any of us who do research in computer-related fields, the Library is a wonderful resource, and, for some, will be cause enough to renew SIGDOC and ACM memberships.

This Issue

This issue features the winning student essay from last year's graduate student competition. Gilbert V. Wilkes, who is studying at Carnegie Mellon University, won the competition with his article on XML. Wilkes has applied models for social change to the effects that new technologies and communication media have on how we conceive of, produce, deliver, and process information. The three commentators, Glenda Burch, Mir Haynes, and John Payne, current or recent students in NC State University's graduate program, agree with Wilkes on many issues, but

question whether XML is actually a new and disruptive writing medium or whether it is more a set of controlled guidelines applied to already extant media. In his reply, Wilkes extends and clarifies his original arguments and refers to XML as the "empire striking back."

The issue concludes with an update to the bibliographical listing of articles in our "sister" publication, the *Journal of Documentation*.

We would like to thank SIGDOC member Julia Land for her valuable assistance in editing portions of this issue. Any errors or oversights remain those of the editor.