WILEY Software: Evolution and Process

EDITORIAL

Editorial: A five year retrospective

It has now been about 5 years since the *Journal of Software: Evolution and Process* was born, and it is the time to make an assessment and identify new directions for improvement. The editorial of our first issue, in January 2012, declared "we have the ambition to offer a new peer-reviewed archival journal that addresses the issues of software conception, development, management, evolution and improvement with a multidisciplinary view that encompasses technologies, processes, services, people, and organizations." Much has happened in these 5 years and the journal has established itself as a distinguished journal with an international reputation for high-quality submissions, timely turnaround for reviews, and a commitment to rigour, originality, and interdisciplinarity.

We continue to receive manuscripts from across the world addressing the latest trends and main concerns facing software development. The journal meanwhile is also doing well. The number of submissions has grown over the years; in 2016, we received 10% more papers than in 2015 and 45% more than in 2012. As the number of submissions increases, so does the variety of topics and the geographical provenance: in 2016, we received submissions from 58 countries, giving the journal a truly international flavour. The quality of submissions has improved, too. In 2016, the acceptance rate has been 31%, while it was 28% in 2015. Timely decisions and qualified reviews are a key to attracting good submissions. In 2016, the average time for deciding a paper was less than 60 days compared with 80 days in 2012, which represents a point of strength of the journal.

Peer review is the critical means by which content quality is maintained in, and we are always looking for qualified persons to serve as peer reviewers. The journal has an editorial board composed of members with a diverse range of substantive research interests and theoretical and methodological background. We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the fine work that our editorial board and reviewers do. We welcome 10 new members to the editorial board: Gabriele Bavota (University of Lugano, Switzerland), Sebastian Elbum (University of Nebraska, USA), LiGuo Huang (Southern Methodist University, USA), Jens Krinke (University College London, UK), Marco Kuhrmann (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark), David Lo (Singapore Management University, Singapore), Tim Menzies (NC State University, USA), Sebastiano Panichella (University of Zurich, Switzerland), Denys Poshyvanyk (College of William & Mary, USA), and Qing Wang (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China). To them and to the board members that have confirmed their support to the journal, our profound gratitude, for without you, the journal could not be published. A special thanks goes to Vincenzo Ambriola, Mikio Aoyama, Françoise Balmas, James R. Cordy, Jean-Claude Derniame, Prem Devanbu, Alec Dorling, Hakan Erdogmus, Mario Fusani, Katsouro Inoué, Chris Marlin, Michele Lanza, Ian Seward, and George Wilkie, who have now left the editorial board after many years in which they served the journal with dedication, commitment, and diligence. Finally, we would like to thank all the experts who served as reviewers for papers submitted to the journal during 2016: thank you for your selfless dedication and invaluable help in the peer-review process.

We are starting a new program of appreciation for editorial board members that consistently provide high-quality reviews in a timely fashion and informed and balanced recommendations for the papers they handled as associate editors. The decisions for this program are made on the basis of the statistics provided by the manuscript management system and our own assessment of the quality of the review reports and the feedback provided for authors. We are proud to announce the winners for 2016: Mark Harman, Massimiliano di Penta, and Miklós Biró. We are indebted to you for donating your time and energy to the peer-review process. Your efforts help to make the journal a success.

Quality is a "no compromise" issue for us. Of course, quality means rejecting bad papers, but it also entails attracting good papers, and this is why we are developing strategies to appeal to the best papers and authors. As part of these strategies, we are promoting thematic special issues on specific topics, and we are introducing new paper categories, including analytical, empirical, technological, methodological, practice, standards, and perspective. For perspective papers, in which the main contribution is a novel perspective on the field as a whole, or part thereof, we are inviting leading software engineering researchers and practitioners to provide their contribution, including assessments of the current state of the art and achievements, framing of an important problem, forward-looking thought pieces, connections to other disciplines, and historical perspectives.

Open access, which allows for freely obtaining articles without subscriptions, has emerged as an attractive option to improve accessibility and visibility of published research. The journal is part of the Wiley OnlineOpen program, in which the author, institution, or funder pays an article publication charge for the article to be open access, making it freely available to everyone. To promote participation in the online open access program, from September 2016, the publication charge has been decreased to $2500.

We look forward to continue building the *Journal of Software: Evolution and Process* with our vision of a progressive software engineering journal that investigates the critical aspects of developing software in a changing world through publishing research and practitioner reports that are path-breaking, visionary, and useful. We very much hope that you will join us in achieving our vision and invite you to submit your articles and to share with us your ideas and suggestions.

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