

Reports of Joint Ventures 2005

CURRENT INDEX TO STATISTICS

July 6, 2005

ACTIVITIES DURING JUNE 2004 TO JUNE 2005:

- Database Editor David James spent most of 2004 learning the database system, and adjusting its design, to emphasize the PostGreSQL database as the primary repository of our data. In early 2005 he entered the 2004 backlog of entries, and is in the process of doing another upload to bring entries completely up to date.
- Abstracting Editor George Styan continues to manage that side of the operation from Montreal. Styan has kindly agreed to extend his term for an additional year, ending December 31 2006. This awaits approval from the sponsoring societies.
- The administrative operation (tracking subscriptions, sending renewal notices, administering Web access, and answering subscription queries) remains at Harvard. Former Management Committee chair Alan Zaslavsky of Harvard was appointed as Associate Managing Editor. He supervises assistant Shiela Muse.
- In late fall 2004 we moved to free personal access for ASA and IMS members. The ASA web site now acts as a gateway for CIS access. IMS member access has not yet been put in place; it requires implementation of a gateway on the IMS web site.
- In spring 2005 the Management Committee formally decided not to create a CD of the 2004 volume. The ASA office is in the process of distributing refunds for prepaid orders. In the future we plan to provide only web access.
- Our financial picture appears to be stable despite these changes. Total 2004 revenue was up from the previous year to \$130,268. Our budget submission (which was approved by IMS in May, and which will be considered at the August ASA meeting) predicted substantially smaller revenue of \$87750 for 2005, rising to \$97875 in 2006, due partly to the loss of personal subscription revenue, and partly to a predicted reduction in commercial subscriptions. Small surpluses were still forecast for both years.
- Jim Pitman has been appointed to the MC as IMS representative to the end of 2007, and Ed Gbur has been renewed as ASA rep to the end of 2006.
- In early June, 2005, Pitman suggested developing some form of cooperation between CIS and Project Euclid. A document describing the proposed scope of negotiations was circulated to IMS and ASA. The IMS appointed Pitman as their representative in the negotiations; the ASA appointed Steve Porzio.

CONCERNS, PROBLEMS AND PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

We find the possibility of cooperation with Cornell University Library's Euclid Project exciting, and those negotiations will be our main focus for the summer. Whether that initiative proceeds or not, we see it as urgent that the user interface to CIS on the web be updated to provide richer results: for example, links to full text of articles that are online, abstracts, etc. This will require a lot of work, and it will be challenging to do it on our current mostly volunteer basis.

We are also planning for a search for a new Abstracting Editor. George Styan has indicated that he might be willing to have his term extended to the end of 2007, but no further than that.

We look forward to playing an active role while continuing to provide the basic bibliographic services upon which so many in our profession rely.

Respectfully submitted,
Duncan Murdoch
Chairman, CIS Management Committee

***ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN PROBABILITY
ELECTRONIC JOURNAL OF PROBABILITY
ANNUAL REPORT 2005***

For ECP, 67 papers were submitted in 2004, a 31% increase over the 51 submissions in 2003. Volume 9 (2004) contains 20 papers, little change from the 21 papers in Volume 8 (2003). For papers published in Volume 9, the mean time to a first report was 73 days (median 70 days), and the mean time to a final decision was 136 days (median 132 days).

For EJP, in 2004, 71 papers were submitted, a 27% increase over the 56 submissions in 2003. Volume 9 (2004) contains 28 papers, 4 more than the 24 papers in Volume 8 (2003). For papers published in Volume 9, the mean time to a first report was 151 days (median 128 days), and the mean time to a final decision was 219 days (median 190 days).

Best,

Martin Barlow, Ted Cox and Zhenqing

JOURNAL OF COMPUTATIONAL AND GRAPHICAL STATISTICS

No report submitted.

PROBABILITY SURVEYS

The inaugural Volume 1 (2004) contained 6 papers (392 pages). As of May 25 2005, Volume 2 contains 5 papers (190 pages) and 6 more papers (about 400 pages) have been formally submitted. Acceptance percentages are not comparable to those of other IMS journals for several reasons:

- (i) in launching the journal we solicited contributions
- (ii) we encourage informal consultation before formal submission
- (iii) papers which are judged more "new results" than "survey" are redirected to other journals rather than being explicitly rejected.

So 2 papers were discouraged in step (ii) and 3 more were redirected in step (iii); all others were accepted.

David Aldous