

**American Mathematical Society
Committee on Publications
September 27-28, 2013
Summary Report**

A meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications (CPub) was held on Friday and Saturday, September 27-28, 2013, at the AMS Headquarters in Providence, RI. CPub chair David Marker presided over the meeting. A summary of the meeting is provided below.

Discussion Topic: The Scholarly Kitchen: a five course tasting menu

Associate Executive Director of Publishing Robert Harington led the Committee in discussion on topics selected from the *Scholarly Kitchen* blog (<http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/>). Attendees engaged in discussion focused on peer review and the Clearinghouse for the Open Research of the United States (CHORUS).

Updates on 2012 Actions

The January 2013 Council approved the following 2012 CPub action items:

- Changes to the History of Mathematics Editorial Committee charge to remove London Mathematical Society as a co-publication partner.
- Expansion of the Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee to include the Executive Director and the Associate Treasurer as ex-officio non-voting members.

Additionally, the initiative to launch two new electronic-only open-access journals, initially discussed at CPub's 2012 meeting, was endorsed by the April 2013 Council. As a result, the Executive Director, the Associate Executive Director for Publishing, or the Publisher will report for the next two years at meetings of the Committee on Publications, the Council, and the Board of Trustees on the status of the new open-access journals. The first such report to the Committee was provided at this meeting (see Report on AMS Open Access Journals).

AMS Translation Committees

AMS currently has three committees responsible for editorial control of translated books: Committee on Russian Translations, Committee on Translations from Chinese, and Committee on Translations from Japanese. CPub considered a proposal to consolidate these committees; however, their current activity status is uncertain. The committee chairs will be contacted to inquire further about each committee's status.

History of Mathematics Editorial Committee Charge

The Committee discussed a request from the History of Mathematics (HMATH) Editorial Committee to change the wording of its charge, as specified under number 2 of the "Principal Activities" section, with the intention of further encouraging submission of manuscripts focusing on the pre-1750 period. No action was taken by the Committee, and the Publisher will discuss the matter further with the HMATH committee at the time of its next meeting.

Review of AMS Member Journals

A subcommittee of CPub conducted the 2013 review of the AMS member journals (*Bulletin*, *Notices*, and *Abstracts*). The subcommittee completed its review by analyzing the report of the

most recent review of the AMS member journals (conducted in 2009) and by collecting information from three main sources:

1. Comments solicited from the Chief Editors of *Notices* and *Bulletin* and the *Bulletin* Book Reviews Editor;
2. Surveys conducted of 500 randomly selected Regular AMS members (159 responses received) and 500 randomly selected Nominee members (35 responses received); and
3. Responses to questions submitted to AMS staff.

The subcommittee's report contained the following conclusions:

- *Bulletin* and *Notices* are healthy and in good shape; however, both could benefit from expansion of the breadth of mathematics covered and making expository articles more accessible to a wider audience.
- *Notices* should consider adding enhancements such as “sidebars” to provide explanations of technical terms.
- Development of a well-designed electronic version of *Abstracts* (for use on mobile devices and laptops) is strongly encouraged.
- Redesign of the online version of *Notices* that can easily be read on a laptop or tablet is highly desirable.
- Electronic delivery of *Notices* and *Bulletin* should include, as a default, the option to receive email notification of new issues with tables of contents included.
- Adding a “manage my subscriptions” link on the AMS website would be useful to members to better accommodate preferences for receiving print or electronic subscriptions.

The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the subcommittee, and copies of the 2013 Report of the CPub Subcommittee Reviewing AMS Member Journals will be sent by the CPub chair to the Chief Editors of the *Notices* and *Bulletin*.

Publishing Strategy Development

Associate Executive Director of Publishing Robert Harington provided a summary of the work currently underway by the AMS Publishing Strategy Group (PSG), a group of key staff assembled earlier this year to develop a strategic plan for the AMS publishing program amidst the current and future challenges of a rapidly changing scholarly publishing environment. The project is collaborative in nature and aims to establish an ongoing strategy for the future of the AMS publishing program in accord with the needs of its membership and the larger mathematical community.

Report on Managing Editors Meeting

Publisher Sergei Gelfand provided an oral report on the meeting of the Managing Editors of the AMS' four primary research journals (*Journal of the AMS*, *Mathematics of Computation*, *Proceedings of the AMS*, and *Transactions of the AMS*), which took place just prior to the CPub meeting on Friday, September 27th. Discussion topics included: plans for implementation and suggestions for improvements to the new version of EditFlow, the Society's manuscript submission and review tracking system; journal backlogs; communication with the Editorial Boards Committee; the new open-access journals; and AMS' current “Added after Posting” policy.

Future Managing Editors' meetings will be held every three years when CPub's annual meeting takes place at the AMS Headquarters in Providence, RI. The next Managing Editors' meeting will be held in 2016.

Report on AMS Open Access Journals

The resolution passed by the April 2013 Council approving the establishment of two new electronic-only open-access journals, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society, Series B* and *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society, Series B*, also states that the Executive Director, the Associate Executive Director for Publishing, or the Publisher will report for the next two years to the Committee on Publications, the Council, and the Board of Trustees on the status of the new journals. Executive Director Donald McClure provided the first such report to the Committee, and the following items were discussed: Article Processing Charges, procedures for allowing authors to choose between "green" and "gold" open access, and the status of the launch of the new journals.

www.ams.org as an AMS Publication

Executive Director Donald McClure updated the Committee on the work of the Web Advisory and Web Editorial Groups (WAG and WEG) and recent development projects for ams.org. It is anticipated that within the next few years, CPub will discuss whether the AMS website should become part of its annual publication review schedule.

Report on Journal Backlogs

The Committee receives a report on the AMS primary journal backlogs as a standing item on its annual meeting agenda. Associate Executive Director of Publishing Robert Harington reviewed the "Backlog of Mathematics Research Journals" report, which is published annually in the *Notices*, and the AMS Internal Backlog Report with the Committee and discussed plans for a new initiative aimed at reducing AMS journal backlogs.

Report on Mathematical Reviews

The Committee regularly receives updated information about Mathematical Reviews (MR) from its Executive Editor, who is invited to attend all meetings of the Committee on Publications. Graeme Fairweather updated the Committee on MR activities since his previous report in 2012 and provided a demonstration of personalization features which will soon be available on [MathSciNet®](http://MathSciNet.com) Author Pages.

Next Meeting

The 2014 CPub meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, September 12-13, 2014, at the Chicago Hilton O'Hare in Chicago, IL. In accordance with its annual review schedule, CPub will conduct an evaluation of the AMS primary journals (*Journal of the AMS*, *Mathematics of Computation*, *Proceedings of the AMS*, and *Transactions of the AMS*) in 2014. The last review of the AMS primary journals was conducted in 2010. A subcommittee will be assembled to complete the review, which will be presented at CPub's 2014 meeting.

Sergei Gelfand, *Publisher*
October 21, 2013