

American Mathematical Society

Committee on Publications 2017 Annual Meeting SUMMARY REPORT

A meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications (CPub) was held on Friday and Saturday, October 13-14, 2017 at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton Hotel, O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, IL, 60666. Ilya Kapovich, chair, presided over the meeting.

Actions taken by CPub include the following:

Ebooks/New Book Media

CPub reviewed the AMS book program in 2016 and directed that a subcommittee on adopting new media for AMS books be appointed to report to CPub at its 2017 meeting. Subsequently, the appointment of this subcommittee was postponed, with the understanding that AMS staff would first provide a report on the ebook program.

Associate Executive Director Harington reported on the ebook program, and CPub determined that a subcommittee on ebook development is not needed at this time. In its place, AMS staff will provide an annual update on work being done to implement new approaches to digital content, and the ebook program will be evaluated as part of CPub's regular review of the AMS Book Program.

Institutional Open Access Policies Subcommittee

In 2016, a joint subcommittee of members of CPub and the AMS Committee on the Profession (CoProf) was formed to study copyright and open access policies that affect mathematicians. The following is a summary of the subcommittee's findings and recommendations:

- Many mathematicians are unaware of whether their institutions have open access policies, and if so, if they are compatible with publisher policies. It was recommended that AMS review and modify its publishing agreements to ensure they are compatible with mainstream open access policies.
- Institutional repositories are not widely used by mathematicians, while the arXiv is.
- Awareness of open access policy issues is low among mathematicians, and there is a need for guidance. To raise awareness, it was recommended that an article explaining the legal terminology and framework of copyright law and open access policies be published in the *Notices* or on the AMS website.

CPub requested that the subcommittee, with the help of AMS staff, coordinate preparation of an article for publication in the *Notices* to raise awareness on open access policies.

Revisions to Editorial Committee Charges

CPub approved changes to the charges of the editorial committees of the *Proceedings of the AMS*, *Colloquium Publications*, *Journal of the AMS*, *Mathematical Surveys and Monographs*, *Mathematical Reviews*, and *Transactions and Memoirs* to clarify appointment procedures. The changes will go forward to Council for approval.

Web Editorial Group

In September 2011, CPub endorsed the creation of a working group, the AMS Web Editorial Group (WEG), to advise AMS officers and staff about mathematical content on the AMS website. WEG supplements the work of the staff Web Advisory Group (WAG). The January 2017 Council instructed CPub to consider whether WEG should become a standing committee.

Since its duties relating to content on the AMS website are not presently clear, CPub voted to recommend to Council that WEG be discharged with thanks, and in its place, a member of CPub will be appointed by the CPub chair as a liaison to WAG to advise on matters of web content and report to CPub annually. CPub's recommendations will go forward to Council for consideration.

CPub Review Schedule

CPub approved a proposal to modify its annual review schedule by combining the reviews of the member journals and the electronic only, translation and distributed journals, resulting in a three-year review cycle. CPub's 2018 review will be of the AMS Book Program. The proposed modification will go forward to Council for approval.

Other Business:

Review of AMS Member Journals

A subcommittee of CPub, consisting of members Nathan Dunfield, Ilya Kapovich (chair), Claudia Polini and Michael Singer, conducted the 2017 review of the member journals (*Abstracts*, *Bulletin*, and *Notices*). The review concentrated mainly on the *Bulletin* and *Notices*, and overall, both journals were found to be in very good health. Delivery to nominee members was identified as the most significant issue for both publications, and the subcommittee recommended that AMS consider a more aggressive notification practice, where several repeated notifications are sent over a period of time and contain more diverse content.

Further recommendations for both *Bulletin* and *Notices* include:

- Exploring adding online only features to enhance the electronic versions (e.g., extra graphics/interactive data/other media related to articles, reviews, AMS publications, and contributors);
- Conducting more frequent surveys of AMS members regarding readership; and
- Collecting and using page-view statistics data to target enhancements.

Attracting enough high quality articles and book reviews was identified as the most difficult task faced by the *Bulletin*. To attract more contributions, the subcommittee suggested offering AMS Points awards to authors, soliciting more articles of shorter length, and placing ads in the *Notices*. Alternating the Levi Conant prize each year between the *Bulletin* and the *Notices* and adding an online comments/feedback submission form were also suggested.

In addition to the above, the following suggestions were made for *Notices*:

- Continue experimenting with the new online comments feature to make it more attractive to readers;
- Preserve some of the more traditional features, such as the "Letters to the Editor" section; and

- Ensure that AMS templates and formatting rules provide enough flexibility for presentation and organization of content.

Notwithstanding financial considerations, the subcommittee's review of *Abstracts* subscription data and membership survey results found no compelling reasons for its continuation as a separate publication. However, CPub agreed that before any recommendation is made to discontinue *Abstracts*, AMS should look into how to make abstracts available in an electronic form that would allow for the convenient search, retrieval and archiving of abstracts presented at the Society's meetings.

Staff provided reports on the following items:

- Strategic Planning
- Journal Backlogs
- AMS Open Access Journals
- Mathematical Reviews

Next meeting: CPub's next meeting will be held September 14-15, 2018 at the Hilton O'Hare in Chicago, IL.

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