

Publication Models in Computing Research: Is a Change Needed? Are We Ready for a Change?

- *Moshe Y. Vardi (Rice),*
- *Carlo Ghezzi (Politecnico di Milano)*
- *Jonathan Grudin (Microsoft Research)*
- *M. Tamer Özsu (U. Waterloo),*
- *Fred B. Schneider (Cornell)*

Biosketch

- ◆ Member of numerous program committees
- ◆ Chairs of several program committees
- ◆ Organizer of several conferences
- ◆ Associate editor of several journals
- ◆ Managing editor of open-access journal
- ◆ EiC of Communications of ACM

Publication-Models Issues

- ◆ Uniqueness issues
- ◆ Cultural issues
- ◆ New publication models

- ◆ *Simplifying generalizations*
- ◆ Resource page: <http://www.cra.org/scholarlypub/>

Uniqueness Issues

- ◆ The emphasis on conference publishing and the decline of journal publishing
- ◆ The large and growing number of specialty conferences and workshops that are really conferences
- ◆ Coping with established publication cultures in the (other) sciences and with the different cultures of different computing sub-communities

Cultural Issues

- ◆ The culture of hypercritical reviewing and the decline of thorough constructive reviewing
- ◆ Tenure and promotion practices that encourage short-term research
- ◆ The influence of bibliometry on publication behavior and tenure practices and the quality of bibliometry

New Publication Models

- ◆ The tension between open access and reader-pays publishing, and the spectrum in between
- ◆ The role of social media in scholarly publishing
- ◆ The role of various actors: commercial publishers, scientific societies, academic publishers and archives
- ◆ The place of self-publishing or publishing in public repositories
- ◆ The need to develop new rules for data citation, sharing, and archiving.

Conference Publications

- ◆ Limited length (10-15 pages)
- ◆ Limited-duration review process
- ◆ Review process aimed at selection
- ◆ High reviewer load
- ◆ Papers presented in conference by authors
- ◆ Conference attended by authors and others

Journal Publications

- ◆ Generous length (e.g., 35 pages)
- ◆ Open-ended, iterative review process
- ◆ Ad-hoc selection of reviewers
- ◆ Papers "flung" to public

CRA's Historical Role

"Evaluating Computer Scientists and Engineers for Promotion and Tenure" - CRA Best Practices Memo, August 1999

Challenged Journal-publication expectation for promotion:

- "... rationale can be applied to conference proceedings, provided they are as carefully reviewed as the prestige conferences, ..."
- "Publication's indirect approach to assessing impact implies that it is useful but not definitive."

Today's Questions

- ◆ **Is a Change Needed?**
- ◆ **Are We Ready for a Change?**