

American Mathematical Society

Committee on Publications 2015 Annual Meeting SUMMARY REPORT

The annual meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications (CPub) was held on Friday and Saturday, September 18-19, 2015, at the Hilton O'Hare Airport, Chicago, IL. CPub chair Charles A. Weibel presided over the meeting.

Old Business - Updates on 2014 Actions

- **Approval of 2014 minutes:** The minutes of the 2014 CPub meeting were approved as drafted.
- **Annual Report:** CPub's 2014 Annual Report was filed in the AMS Committee Report Book as Committee Report Number 141022-021 and posted on the Committee's homepage at <http://www.ams.org/ams/cpub-home.html>.
- **Council Actions:** The January 2015 Council approved the following CPub-recommended actions:
 - Updates to the charges of the [History of Mathematics Editorial Committee](#) and the [Mathematical Surveys and Monographs Editorial Committee](#), and
 - Consolidation of the three translation editorial committees into a new committee, the [Translations of Mathematical Monographs Editorial Committee](#), which will become active in February 2016.
- **Mathematics of Computation (MCOM) Editorial Committee charge:** Changes initially approved by CPub in 2014 to the [MCOM Committee charge](#) were revised at the 2015 meeting and recommended to Council for approval. The changes include the following three revisions to update wording in the "Principle Activities" section of the MCOM charge:
 - In number 1, remove the words "the quarterly journal";
 - In number 2, replace the word "decisions" with "recommendations" and capitalize the first letter in the words "associate" and "editors"; and
 - Following the word "journal" in the last sentence of number 4, change the comma to a period and strike the words "and to maintain a repository of unpublished mathematical tables".
- **Guidelines for New Topical Journal Proposals:** In early 2014, CPub was asked by Council to establish a process for evaluating proposals to launch new AMS journals. Prior to CPub's 2014 meeting, a subcommittee was established to draft guidelines for reviewing new journal proposals, and these draft guidelines were later edited and approved by the full committee at the time of CPub's 2014 meeting. Officially known as the "Guidelines for Reviewing Proposals to Launch a New Topical Journal," these guidelines have since been used by CPub for evaluation of two new journal proposals: the 2014 proposal to publish the *Journal of Applied and Computational Topology* and the 2015 proposal to take over publication of the *Online Journal of Analytic Combinatorics*.

Reports

- ***Report on Journal Backlogs***

The Committee received the following reports by attachment: “Internal Primary Journal Backlog Report,” “Backlog of Mathematics Research Journals,” and “Report on Steps Being Taken to Alleviate Journal Backlogs,” which were presented by Associate Executive Director, Publishing, Robert Harington. The current backlog statuses for *Transactions* and *Proceedings of the AMS* were discussed as well as plans to establish and maintain healthy backlogs for AMS journals through a three-pronged approach: by systematically increasing annual page budgets, refining editorial board structures, and expanding AMS’ overall capacity to publish additional content.

- ***Update on Publishing Strategy Development***

The Committee received the report “Publishing Strategy Group: Scenario Analysis - Strategy Development” by attachment, and Associate Executive Director, Publishing, Robert Harington provided a summary of the work currently underway by the AMS Publishing Strategy Group (PSG) for all AMS publishing activities including books, eBooks, journals, electronic products and Math Reviews/MathSciNet,

- ***Report on AMS Open Access Journals***

The Committee received the “Report on Open-Access Journals” (an updated version of Att. #7, May 2015 ECBT item 2E.6) by attachment, containing information about the current status of [*Proceedings of the AMS, Series B*](#) and [*Transactions of the AMS, Series B*](#). A brief summary of the report was presented by Associate Executive Director Harington.

- ***Report on Mathematical Reviews***

The Committee received the “Report on *Mathematical Reviews* to CPub” by attachment, which was presented by Mathematical Reviews (MR) Executive Editor Ed Dunne. Executive Editor Dunne also demoed some new and upcoming features of MathSciNet.

- ***Review of AMS “Other” Journals***

Charles Weibel, chair of the subcommittee that conducted the 2015 review of the AMS “other” journals (electronic-only, translation, and distributed journals), presented the subcommittee’s evaluation report. Other subcommittee members included: Walter Craig, Anatoly Libgober, and Ben Webster.

The subcommittee’s findings and recommendations are summarized below:

- Electronic-Only Journals:

- *Proceedings, Series B* and *Transactions, Series B* were deemed too new to evaluate, having published only 13 and 3 papers at the time of the review.
- *Conformal Geometry and Dynamics* and *Representation Theory* are both in reasonably good shape, but AMS should increase their visibility in order to increase the number of submissions to these journals.

- Distributed Journals:

- The value of these journals seems non-controversial, and their quality is sufficiently respectable to endorse continuation of their distribution by the AMS.

- Translated Journals:

- *Transactions of the Moscow Mathematical Society* provides a valuable service to the community, but AMS should monitor the percentage of articles being published in English which do not require translation.
- *St. Petersburg Mathematical Journal* maintains a relatively consistent subscription rate and seems to be worth continuing to translate and publish.
- *Sugaku Expositions* provides a valuable contribution to the community since articles published in this journal would probably not otherwise be available outside of Japan.
- *Theory of Probability and Mathematical Statistics* seems to have a fairly consistent subscription rate, but the number of editorial board members publishing in the journal raises concerns about its academic merit, and the subcommittee recommends discontinuation of this journal.

C Pub endorsed the subcommittee's recommendation to discontinue the translation journal *Theory of Probability and Mathematical Statistics* and to forward that recommendation to Council.

New Business

- ***Online Journal of Analytic Combinatorics Proposal***

In June 2015, a proposal to take over publication of the [Online Journal of Analytic Combinatorics](#) (OJAC) was received and forwarded to a subcommittee established by the C Pub chair for evaluation. The subcommittee was tasked with reviewing the proposal according to the *Guidelines for Reviewing Proposals to Launch a New Topical Journal*, which were adopted by C Pub in 2014, and making a recommendation on the proposal for consideration by the full committee at the time of C Pub's annual meeting. The Committee discussed the proposal and the subcommittee's evaluation report at length and endorsed the subcommittee's recommendations that OJAC become an AMS journal and that its health be carefully reviewed when C Pub conducts its next review of the non-primary AMS journals in 2019. The proposal will go forward to Council with these recommendations from C Pub.

- ***Computational Reproducibility Guidelines for Mathematics***

C Pub approved a proposal from AMS Publisher Sergei Gelfand and Associate Executive Director, Meetings and Professional Services, T. Christine Stevens to establish a joint subcommittee consisting of two members each from C Pub and the Committee on the Profession (CoProf) to consider what role, if any, the AMS should have in the creation of guidelines for computational reproducibility standards for the mathematical community.

The joint C Pub-CoProf subcommittee's charge is as follows:

A subcommittee consisting of two members each from the AMS Committee on Publications (C Pub) and the AMS Committee on the Profession (CoProf), should be formed with the goal of determining:

- a) Whether guidelines for the submission, refereeing, and publication of articles containing computational mathematics are needed;**
- b) Whether the AMS and its policy committees are appropriate bodies to create such guidelines; and**

c) If the answers to a) and b) are positive, what further steps should be taken?

It is recommended that the proposed subcommittee be formed immediately, with the goal of preparing and submitting its recommendations to AMS Publisher Sergei Gelfand and Associate Executive Director, Meetings and Professional Services, T. Christine Stevens by the end of 2015.

The subcommittee has since been established, and its work has begun. Greg Kuperberg and Sergei Gelfand have been appointed to serve on the subcommittee on behalf of CPub, and Bill McCallum (chair) and Joseph Silverman have been appointed to serve on behalf of CoProf.

Informational/Other Items

- ***New Technologies Presentation: Tizra and Lens***

Associate Executive Director Robert Harington presented an overview and demonstration of the features of two new technologies in development for the Bookstore and online journals. AMS is working with Providence-based vendor [Tizra](#) to launch a new and enhanced online bookstore, expected to go live later this year, which will enable both print and electronic sales of content to individual purchasers and offer web-based, e-reader technology. AMS is also researching use of the browser-based, open-source tool [eLife Lens](#) to offer an enriched experience for reading journal articles online. Lens technology allows readers to explore key elements and features of an article, such as table of contents, figures, and references, as well as information about the article itself, such as the submission and publication dates, all without having to leave their current place within the text. AMS is considering use of Lens for its two gold open-access journals, *Proceedings of the AMS, Series B* and *Transactions of the AMS, Series B*.

- ***Mathematical Publishing Panel/Presentation at ECM***

AMS is collaborating with the European Mathematical Society to organize a joint mathematical publishing panel/presentation focusing on technological innovations, electronic distribution, and topics concerning public access mandates at next summer's [7th European Congress of Mathematics](#) (to be held in Berlin, July 18-22, 2016). Executive Director Don McClure solicited input and suggestions from the Committee for this event.

- ***2016 CPub Meeting***

- CPub's 2016 meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, 2016, at the AMS Headquarters in Providence, RI.
- The Managing Editors of the four primary journals (*Journal of the AMS*, *Mathematics of Computation*, *Proceedings of the AMS*, and *Transactions of the AMS*) will be invited to attend CPub's 2016 meeting.
- An evaluation of the AMS Book Program will be conducted by CPub in 2016.

*Sergei Gelfand
Publisher
October 20, 2015*